THE JAMES SPRUNT HISTORICAL STUDIES

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Editors

R. D. W. CONNOR

WILLIAM WHATLEY PIERSON, JR. MITCHELL B. GARRETT

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MINUTES OF THE N. C. MANUMISSION SOCIETY, 1816-1834

Edited by

H. M. WAGSTAFF

Professor of History and Government in the
University of North Carolina

CHAPEL HILL
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PREFACE

The present volume of the James Sprunt Historical Studies contains the minutes of the North Carolina Manumission Society, 1816-1834, an important body of historical material illustrative of a side of social history in North Carolina during the period covered. Viewed from the right angle the ideals that this society represented, and the efforts made to propagate them, are in considerable degree explanatory of the conservative character which the state bore prior to the Civil War on the great issue of slavery which tended ever more and more to color the political, economic, and social life of the nation and divide it into two opposing sections. In the very heart of North Carolina there existed a sturdy rural population opposed on religious and social principles to the existence of human slavery and who dared organize for the purpose of its amelioration and its gradual eradication. The swelling tide of slavery's growth, whipped up by economic forces, was destined to roll over and submerge such isolated pools of sentiment as was represented by the North Carolina Manumission Society, and other like units in the South based on the ideals of human right and human dignity. But though organized effort was abandoned long before the slavery issue reached its critical stage in the fifties and sixties, it is not too much to say the weight of such opinion as the Manumission Society had represented, though now unorganized, accounts for the retarded supremacy of the slavery forces in the politics of the state (See Wagstaff, H. M., *State Rights and Political Parties in North Carolina,* 1776-1861, Ch. III-IV) and, at the very last, almost deprived them of victory. It was this element of opinion that in politics made up the core of the Whig party in North Carolina and animated it with the purpose of holding the Union together at almost any cost. Social and political forces proved too strong for it in the end, if secession is to be considered the end; but the ultimate failure of secession, after the test at arms, proved it in harmony with that which was to prevail.

The Minute Book, in manuscript, is now the property of Guilford College Library and was lent for publication by that institution through the mediation of the late Dr. Mary Mendenhall Hobbs (Mrs. L. L. Hobbs). Dr. Hobbs herself, having a deep interest in the history and influence of the Friends in North Carolina and in the nation, had had the purpose of publishing the Minute Book, but relinquished this purpose some time before her death in 1930. Her forbears in Guilford County, the Mendenhalls, staunch members of the Society of Friends (in law and general usage commonly called Quakers,) had much to do with the organization and direction of the Manumission Society.

The documents appearing in the appendix were Mrs. Hobbs own and, with other mss. relating to the activities of the *Meeting for Sufferings,* an organ of the Yearly Meeting of the Friends Society, were intrusted by her to the editor for publication. In this volume of the Studies appear only those of the Hobbs Mss. that relate to the Manumission Society; the remainder are to appear later. The whole, in addition to a small but valuable collection of pamphlet literature of the Friends Society, Mrs. Hobbs instructed to be transmitted to the Library of the University of North Carolina as a gift from her to the Southern Collection of Historical Materials being aggregated there by Dr. J. G. de Roulhac Hamilton. It would seem a highly desirable thing if the conservator of the Southern Collection made these pamphlets and tracts a nucleus about which to assemble whatever other materials relating to the Society of Friends which have, and from time to time may come into possession of the Collection. Together it would represent an important and valuable chapter in the religious and social history of the South.

The Minute Book here published was begun in the year 1816. It appears that there already existed in Guilford and Randolph counties several local manumission societies centering in certain Quaker churches. In this year these local associations appointed delegates who came together on the 19th of July, at Center Meeting House in Guilford County, and organized the

General Association of the Manumission Society of North Carolina. Four church communities were represented and recognized as branches, the number of delegates present being thirty-one and the aggregate membership of the several branches one hundred and forty-seven. At this organization meeting the purpose seems to have prevailed to meet annually, and the second Monday in July, 1817, was designated as the time, and Deep River Meeting House, Guilford County, the place for the next General Association. However, the general interest in the movement brought about a "called" meeting, Dec. 20, 1816, at Deep River Meeting House, where rules of order and a constitution were ratified, the latter after elimination of a provision to make impeachable any member of the Society who voted for a candidate for the state legislature who was not in favor of the emancipation of slaves. Founded on ideals and convictions peculiarly representative of the tenets of the Society of Friends, the plan and purpose of the organizers of the Manumission Society was not to make it an exclusive Quaker Church organization, but rather to associate and unite all men who held, or could be convinced that human slavery was a great evil and should by gradual and orderly processes be eliminated from the nation's life. The Society throughout its existence held to the note of religious and social tolerance, as indeed its situation in the midst of a slaveholding state and section made necessary. Nevertheless, this latter factor of position does not seem to the editor the whole reason by far for the moderate and tempered methods of the Society in its endeavor to advance the cause for which it came into being; but rather the explanation lies as much in the Quakers' ideals, out of which the organization had its inspiration. Here in the heart of North Carolina, particularly in Guilford, Randolph, Chatham, and Alamance counties, were a sturdy stock, mostly of English origin, who held the Quaker faith and whose influence was for long predominant in the Congressional district of which these counties were the core and which was usually known throughout the state as the "Quaker District." It was in the first two of these counties, and in Quaker churches, that local manumission societies were

formed and from which, after the General Association was set up in 1816, branches were extended north, east, south, and west. During the eighteen years of the Society's life the semi-annual meetings were held in Quaker Meeting Houses, with two of the original communities (Center and Deep River, in Guilford) remaining the most consistent in its support throughout.

The Society set itself the task of extending its branches in all directions, of studying the laws on slavery in state and nation, and prepared to influence Congress and the State Legislature by petition, memorial, and address. No threat of the ballot was used, but the effect of the ballot was employed. A Corresponding Committee was set up and instructed to open communication with the American Colonization Society, the American Peace and Bible Societies, and with other organizations in the South and the nation whose views and purposes might be akin to its own. Special committees were designated from time to time to present its principles and views to various denominational groups, among them the Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists, and Moravians. Tracts, pamphlets, and other anti-slavery literature were procured and distributed to the branches *in esse* and prospective. For some years the project of setting up a press of its own was under consideration but never came to fruition. However, it freely used the columns of friendly newspapers, particularly the *Greensboro Patriot,* as a medium of propagating the Society's views. Also addresses and essays by its officials were ordered to be printed and distributed.

The years 1823 and 1824 were critical years in the life of the Society, the latter year bringing it near to dissolution. Several serious decisive issues were forward: one, the problem of whether the General Association should follow the example of one of its advanced branches (New Garden, now Guilford College) and undertake to provide "A School, (if practicable) in such place as convenience may best suit, for the education of Colored Children"; another, indecision whether to retain the word "Colonization" in the title as indicative of its task and purpose. The Constitution of the Society had been amended in 1817 to make the title read "The Manumission and Colonization

Society of North Carolina." This question of title was tied up with another,—the wisdom or unwisdom of affiliation with the American Colonization Society as a branch of that organization. In 1824 the constitution was revised and "colonization" dropped from the name of the Society. Evidently this decision, representing as it did the failure to develop a positive program for the disposal of manumitted slaves, did not satisfy a very considerable element of the membership. This conclusion is borne out not only by the near approach to dissolution of the General Association in this year, but by the further fact (disclosed by the Hobbs MSS.) that coincidentally with the manumission society's decision not to engage the organization in colonization efforts, the Friends Yearly Meeting established the "Meeting for Sufferings," whose most important activity, through its committee on emigration, soon took the form of efforts to colonize manumitted slaves in Haiti. This effort on the part of the Quakers of North Carolina makes up the chief interest of the Hobbs MSS. representing as it does the documentary evidence of a sharp controversy between the agents of the Committee on Emigration and the owners and captain (Henry M. Cooke) of the Schooner Sally Ann, chartered at Beaufort, May 6, 1826, to convey a first shipload of immigrants to a port in Haiti. Other activities of this committee took the direction of succor to manumitted slaves whose rights to freedom were threatened through quirks of the law; of intervention in cases of kidnapping; and occasionally of removal of blacks to free soil areas north of the Ohio River.

The Manumission Society itself, in 1825, developed renewed strength and interest, apparently due to the settling of the controversial matters which had divided it in 1823-24. In 1824, when its dissolution had been imminent, the constitution had been amended so as to provide for annual, instead of the customary semi-annual meetings of the General Association. In 1825 this provision, by common consent, was disregarded and spring and autumn meetings were held with very much increased attendance. Eighty-one delegates were present at the two-day session (September 9-10) at Hopewell Meeting House

in Randolph County, representing twenty-eight branches and an estimated membership of 1150. Female branches began to be organized and courteous replies to the "addresses" from these began to be spread on the minutes. The two-day sessions of the delegates now took on the quality of a social event to the community entertaining the meeting and this tended to strengthen its roots, as was natural, in a rural population.

In 1826 the branches were still increasing and it was in this year the question of setting up a press was mooted. In 1827 there were forty-one branches in existence beside female branches. A delegate was named to the Annual Convention of the American Colonization Society, and a memorial on the evils of slavery was dispatched to Congress. In 1828 the Society's branches were so widely extended that they were divided into east and west ridings and a Board of Managers set up for each riding. The dividing line began at the Virginia border and followed the post-road through Wentworth, Greensboro, Asheboro, Lawrenceville, Wadesboro, and thence to the South Carolina line. Memorials were again dispatched to Congress, particularly requesting the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia. Politics in this same year thrust up its head and became a divisive influence, there being evidence in the Minutes of influences at work to commit the organization to the support of John Quincy Adams for re-election to the presidency of the United States on the ground that he was more favorable to the principles of the Society than his opponent Andrew Jackson. These things are but lightly reflected in the minutes, since they were charged with explosive material. The "Quaker District" (Guilford, Randolph, and Chatham counties) representative in Congress, in 1824, had, alone of the State congressmen, cast his vote for Adams when the electoral vote had thrown the election into the House of Representatives for a choice between Adams, Jackson, and William H. Crawford. Its favor was still toward Adams in the election of 1828, based largely on his congressional record in defense of the "right of petition." (See Wagstaff, *State Rights and Political Parties in North Carolina,* pp. 46-59, for the political situation in the state from 1824 to 1835,

and the Quaker District's reactions to slavery issues). A variety of factors operated in North Carolina between 1824 and the Nat Turner Insurrection in 1831 to cause the state legislature to give attention to both the position of the free negro and the slave in her social scheme (See Laws of N. C., 1826, p. 13, and 1830-31, pp. 11-16.) This sensitiveness of the state government, particularly as to free negroes, undoubtedly reflected itself in a swift decline of the activities of the Manumission Society, beginning in 1828. The membership was a law-abiding type and however much its principles might be opposed to the prevailing social and economic system of the South, it seemed no part of wisdom for a small segment of the general population, in organized body, to pursue objectives in sharp contravention to the current of state purpose. Hence the renewed activity of the Society almost suddenly checked itself and progressive decline followed from 1829. A staunch element, though small in numbers, did enter protest in September, 1830, at the conviction and imprisonment for libel of William Lloyd Garrison who, with the Quaker Benjamin Lundy, was editing at Baltimore the *Genius of Universal Emancipation.* The general tension over slavery in the Southern states in the early years of the thirties superinduced caution on the part of the North Carolina Manumission Society and at the meeting of the General Association (Mount Gilead Meeting House, Randolph County), July 29, 1831, it rejected a proposal to memorialize the state legislature requesting the repeal of its act of 1829 prohibiting the education of slaves. This was almost exactly three weeks prior to the outbreak of Nat Turner's insurrection of slaves in Southampton County, Virginia, in which fifty-five whites were butchered. The shadow of this event fell darkly upon the whole South, but particularly upon the attitudes and activities of this peaceful and humane society which had sought, by lawful means only, the amelioration of the condition of the blacks. Its usual fall meeting was omitted altogether in 1831, and the March meeting of 1832 barely rallied a quorum and adjourned to May. In May, at Ebenezer Meeting House, Randolph County, only sixteen delegates came together, representing seven branches. Twenty-

six branch societies were recorded in the minutes as not represented, and this does not appear to have been a full list. In the September meeting of the same year only fifteen delegates appear and thirty-eight branches are recorded as unrepresented. This meeting undertook plans to revive the branches but indefinitely postponed a proposal to commit the Association to a remonstrance against the employment of slave labor in the construction of the projected North Carolina Railroad. In 1833, at the March session, four branches only sent delegates, fourteen in number, to Center Meeting House, where the General Association had first met in 1816. After absolving a previously appointed committee of its failure in duty in not addressing the branch societies on the subject of contributing money to the American Colonization Society, the body went into committee of the whole and debated "the propriety of the Society's continuing its exertions in an organized capacity." It was resolved to continue, but the following September meeting at Deep River was no better attended. Little was done beside the adoption of a written address by Henry Powell deploring the indifference of the people to the principles for which the Society had stood. This address was preserved in the Hobbs manuscripts and appears in the appendix to this volume.

The March meeting of 1834 adjourned for lack of a quorum, with Marlborough Meeting House, in Randolph County, designated as the place and July 25 as the time for reconvention. This meeting at Marlborough proved to be the last, despite the fact that the twelve delegates present elected officers for the ensuing two years, instructed the president, Benjamin Swain, to use such means as in his judgment might seem expedient to arouse the "sleeping branches" and appointing a time and place (Center Meeting House) for the next meeting.

H. M. WAGSTAFF.

Chapel Hill, N. C.
Jan. 27, 1932.

J. F. S. Davis Bought this Book at the sale of Joseph Hodgin
the 7th day of the first month 1892
And presented
it to Centre Monthly Meeting

MINUTES OF N. C. MANUMISSION SOCIETY

1816-1834

Minutes of the General Association of the Manumission Society of North Carolina

At a meeting of delegates from the Several branches of the Manumission Society in the counties of Guilford and Randolph convened at center meeting-house the 19th of ye 7th mo. (July) 1816 When by the credentials produced it appeared that the following persons had been chosen to represent their respective Branches in this association

Center branch	Caraway
Mosses Swaim	Dugan Clark
Jonathan Parker	Obadiah Elliot
Thos. Swain	Robt. W. Raccon
David Worth	Peter Dieks
Thos. Coffin	Mathew Symonds
Hugh Sherwood	Eli Powell
Job Worth	
Obed Barnard	
Zeno Worth	

Deep river	Newgarden
Stephen Gardner	Benajah Hiatt
Stephen Gardner Jr	Tristram Davis
Josseph Coffin	Bethuel Coffin
Paul Macy Jr	Isaac Gardner
Aaron Coffin	Henry Ballenger
Jas. Mendenhall	Paul Macy
Jonth^{n}, Gardner	
Jeremiah Hubbard	
Rich^{d}, Mendenhall	
Manlove Wheeler	

of Whom the following appeared and took their seats: Mosses Swaim, Thos. Swain, David Worth, Thos Coffin, Hugh Sher-

wood, Job Worth, Obed Barnard, Zeno Worth, Mathew Symonds, Eli Powell, Stephen Gardner Jr, Paul Macy Jr, Aaron Coffin, James Mendenhall, Benajah Hiatt, Tristram Davis, Bethuel Coffin, Isaac Gardner, Henry Ballenger, Paul Macy, Obadiah Elliot, Peter Dieks, Dugan Clark, — The meeting then organized under a Temporary constitution and proceeded to ballot for a president (Moses Swaim in the chair) and on counting the votes it appeared that Mosses Swaim was Duly Elected, — on balloting for Clerk and treasurer it appeared that Thos Swain was Chosen Clerk, & Hugh Sherwood treasurer.

It appeared by accounts from the Several Branches that the aggregate amount of members belonging to this Society is 147. Isaac Gardner, Thos Coffin, Job Worth and Thos Swain, are appointed a Committee to produce business to a futer seting of the meeting. Adjourned till 4 oclock this Evening. 4 oclock the meeting met and appointed Zeno Worth, Job Worth and Aaron Coffin a committee to Enquire into the Expediency of procuring Extracts of the Laws relative to Slavery, of any or all the states in the Union and report to next meeting.

An Essay of a constitution for the Society was produced and read which being thought objectionable in some parts the meeting appointed Thos Coffin, Paul Macy Jur, Isaac Gardner, Zeno Worth, Tristram Davis, Aaron Coffin, and Thos Swain a committee to Transcribe & amend the same and produce it to a futer seting of the meeting.

Paul Macy Jr, Aaron Coffin and Thos Swain were Chosen to Superintend all the printing ordered by the Society for one year, and draw on the cashier for Money to defray the expence thereof.

An address in writing was forwarded to this meeting by the Centre branch, which was read, approved and refered to the above committe for publication in the following Manner Viz that they procure an insertion in the three Raleigh papers. Adjourned to ½ past 7 tomorrow morning. 20th the meeting met. Jonathan Parker a delegate from the center branch appeared and took his seat and on Motion was anexed to the committee appointed to procure extracts of the Laws. — The committee to

whom was refered the consideration of the constitution reported the same as amended, which was read and signed and refered to next meeting for further amendment if necessary. — Adjourned until 3 oclock this evening. 3 oclock the meeting met. Stephen Gardner Jonathan Gardner & Robert W Raccon delegates appeared and took their Seats.

A dialogue from the Center branch was submitted to the consideration of the house which resolved that the author be at Liberty to print not exceeding 500 Copies thereof and draw on the cashier for remuneration. — On motion Resolved that a meeting Similar to this be held on the 2nd Monday in July 1817 at Deepriver meetinghouse at 11 oclock.

The meeting adjourned sine die — *Thomas Swain Clerk*

I

At a general Association of the Manumission Society convened by the president at Deepriver Meetinghouse the 20th decr, 1816. The delegates from the Center Caraway and Deepriver branches the same as heretofore it appears that the Newgarden branch has appointed three additional ones to attend this meeting.

The representatives present are. Mosses Swaim, Thos Swain, David Worth, Thos. Coffin, Hugh Sherwood, Job Worth, Robt. W Raccon, Mathew Symonds, Stephen Gardner, Jos. Coffin, Paul Macy Jr, Aaron Coffin, James Mendenhall, Jonathan Gardner, Jeremiah Hubbard, Richd. Mendenhall, Benajah Hiatt, Tristram Davis, Paul Macy, Josiah Unthank, Vestal Coffin, Eli Powell, Jonathan Parker, — The house then appointed Aaron Coffin and Rich^{d}, Mendenhall a balloting committe. A committe was then balloted for to draft rules of order for the house & Report them to a futer seting of the meeting & on counting the votes it appeared that Richard Mendenhall, Mosses Swaim, Thos Coffin, Aaron Coffin and David Worth were duly Elected.

A committe was then balloted for to take the constitution into view, and report any amendment or alterations that they may deem Expedient to a futer seting of the meeting and by

report of the balloting committe it appeared that Mosses Swaim, Rich[d] Mendenhall, Stephen Gardner, Thos. Swain, David Worth & Jonathan Parker were Elected.

Jeremiah Hubbard is appointed an Assistant clerk The clerks were appointed to prepare Business to lay before the house, and report the same to a future seting.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock tomorrow. 20th the meeting met — the committe to draft rules of order for the House report as follows—

Rules &c

Touching the duty of the president or chairman

1st He shall endeavor to take the chair at the hours adjourned to, call the members to order, and on the appearance of a quorum cause the Journal of the preceding meeting to be read.

2nd He shall preserve decorum, may speak to points of order in preference to other members, Shall decide questions of order subject to an appeal to the house by any 2 members —

3rd He shall rise to put a question but may state it siting Those in the affirmative shall rise — Those in the negative keep their seats. If the speaker doubt he shall name a member on each side to assertain by counting and shall state their Report to the house —

4th He shall have the right to name any member to perform the duty of the chair in cases of temporary absence

5th As soon as the Journal is read the President shall call for the referances from the Several branches

On Decorum in Debate

6th When any member is about to speak or deliver his sentiments, he shall rise and address himself to the President or the house or express his Ideas without particularly addressing either, but shall confine himself to the question in debate and avoid personalities —

7th When 2 or more members rise to speak at the same time the president shall (if necessary) name the member who shall speak first —

8th No member shall speak more than twice to the same Question without leave of the house except to explain himself when not understood. Nor entertain private discourse when a member is speaking, or pass between him and the chair —

9th Every member who shall be in the house when the question is put shall give his vote unless the house for special reasons shall excuse him

10th When a motion is made & seconded it shall be stated by the president, or being in writing read aloud by the clerk, every motion shall be reduced to writing if the president or any member desire it, but may be withdrawn at any time before decision or amendments

11th A motion to adjourn is always in order & shall be decided without debate —

12th Any member may call for the division of a question when the sense will admit of it

13th Any member may excuse himself from Serving on any Committe at the time of his appointment if he is then a Member of two other Committes or can render other sufficient reason

The committe to whom was refered the consideration of the Constitution, reported the same as amended, on the reading of which a question arose Viz whether the voting of one of our members for a candidate for the Legislative body who is not in favor of the emancipation of Slaves be impeachable by the Constitution. After expunging the 7th article, which was carried in the affirmative, and after erasing the said article the Constitution was ratified by the house —

Mosses Swaim Richard Mendenhall and Thos. Swain were appointed a corresponding committe with the Manumission Society in Tennessee and to report their progress therein to the meeting at a future period —

The committe appointed to prepare business reported the following query — Whether it might not be a probable means of promoting the growth of the institution to propose a Correspondance with certain religious Societies which being decided in the affirmative the house agreed to address the Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Moravian Societies, and a general address being produced & read was ordered to be corrected and forwarded to the said societies by the following delegates appointed for that purpose, Viz. for the Baptist, Christopher Swaim and Eli Powell, for the Methodist, Hugh Sherwood & Henry Hendrix, for the Presbyterian, Job Worth and Jeremiah Hubbard, for the Moravian, Richard Mendenhall & Benajah Hiatt, who are to report to the meeting when they shall have complied therewith —

The committe appointed last meeting relative to extracts of the Laws on Slavery, report not complied with — The committe to superintend Printing report by letter from one of the printers as follows:

"Dr Sir—I recd by a young man who passed thro' this place some days ago an Oration delivered before your Manumission Society, with a request that it might be inserted in the Register, Star, and Minerva." "I am not willing to insert it in the Register, it is on a subject which the people of this State will not bear discussed with temper at present, it might also produce consequences of a direful kind of geting into the hands of Slaves, for many of them can read—I wish with you, that an end could be put to Slavery, but it will be of no use to attack the people's prejudices directly in the face, it must be brought about by slow, but gradual means — if you wish the copy returned say so

Yours Respectf—

Raleigh Septr 6th 1816 J. O. Gales"

On motion of the president it is agreed that the meeting in future be held Semianually at the meeting-houses of Center & Deep River alternately on the last Mondays in April & October, at Center in April next to which time and place the meeting adjourns to meet at 11 o'clock — Thomas Swain Clerk

At a general Association held at Center meeting-house the 28th April 1817—members present Mosses Swaim, Thos, Swain, David Worth, Hugh Sherwood, Job Worth, Peter Dicks, Obadiah Elliot, Richard Mendenhall, Stephen Gardner, Jonathan Gardner, Jos. Coffin, Paul Macy Jur, Robert Stuart, Aaron Coffin, William Armfield, Paul Macy, Vestal Coffin, Benajah Hiatt &c —

It seems some of the papers are lost, so that the whole number present is not here inserted, but there was a quorum convened and proceded to business.

By a report of the Corresponding Committe it appears that a communication is Opened between the Society in this State & Tennessee, which letters are filed with the Clerk, subject to the Inspection of any member. No report has been forwarded to this Meeting from the Deputation appointed to wait on the Baptist Society, with an address, —— one of the committee appointed to wait on the Methodist Society reported no progress, Those for the Presbyterian Society report they have attended a branch of that Society, & met a favorable reception, — Those to attend the Moravians, report they attended at Salem and introduced the address to some of the leading characters among them, who stated that they were favorable to the plan, but were unprepared at that time to return an answer, — but that they probably would at a future period, —

The Committee to enquire into the expediency of procuring extracts of the laws on Slavery report that they have made but little progress in that enquiry, and the house agreed that said Committee be discharged, & another chosen, — It appeared from the balloting that Richard Mendenhall, David Worth, William Armfield, and Stephen Gardner, were Elected, — A proposition was laid before the House by Center branch, recommending the opening a communication with the American Society at Washington City for Colonizing the free people of color, — to which the house agreed, & directed that the corresponding Committee be authorized to open a communication with them, also with the peace & Bible Societies in the United

States, — Also a proposition from the same branch, for establishing a printing office, to be under the direction of the Society, which subject was refered to Stephen Gardner & Job Worth, who are to obtain information & Report to next meeting, — Also a proposition for adding to the present title of our Constitution the words ("and Colonizing") which was agreed to. A proposition from Deep River branch was introduced, recommending that a memorial be prepared & forwarded to the next Session of Congress on behalf of the people of color held in Slavery, to which the House agreed, and an address being produced & read was approved it was therefore resolved that copies thereof be distributed in the different branches, for the purpose of obtaining signatures, by such as are willing to sign it, who are not members of this Society, and that said copies be produced to next meeting, & then forwarded on to congress. If approved by the house, the clerk is directed to furnish the several branches with copies thereof —

Paul Macy Jur. is appointed to procure a book to record the proceedings of the Society in, & call on the Cashier for money to defray the expence, — Also to assist the Clerk in transcribing the Minutes —

Number of Members belonging to Center branch... 66
Deep River do..... 46
Newgarden do..... 68
No account from Caraway branch ——

Adjourned to the next in course to be held at Deep River Meeting House the last 2nd Day in October next

Thomas Swain Clerk

II

A General Association Convened at the call of the President at the Union Meeting House in Guilford County the 22nd day of July 1817, the following Members were returned as Representatives Viz^{t}, for

Center Branch	Caraway	Deep River
David Worth	William Clark	Richard Mendenhall
Mosses Swaim	Peter Dieks	Jeremiah Hubbard
Job Worth	Thomas Fentriss	Paul Macy Jur
Thomas Coffin	Robert McCracken	Aaron Coffin
Thomas Swain	Asel Bush	Robert Stuart
Daniel Worth	Matthew Symons	Stephen Gardner
Christopher Swaim	Eli Powell	John Stuart
Joseph Swain		Nathan Mendenhall
John Hodson		Asa Folger
		James Mendenhall

New Garden	Reedy Fork
William Armfield	John Draughon
Benajah Hiat	Edward Starbuck
Tristram Davis	Archibald Bowman
Bethuel Coffin	Henry White
Isaac Gardner	Charles Moore
Henry Ballinger	David Bunch
Paul Macy	Joseph Paulson
Josiah Unthank	
Vestal Coffin	

Of whom a Quorum were present & took their Seats and proceeded to appoint a Balloting committee, when a balloting took place for President, Clerk, & Treasurer, the result of which was, that Mosses Swaim was elected President, Thomas Swain, Clerk, & Hugh Sherwood Treasurer, ——

On motion it was agreed to reconsider the Memorial to Congress on Behalf of the People of color, ——
Sanctioned at last meeting, the issue of which was that the memorial was rejected, and a committee chosen consisting of Aaron Coffin, David Worth, Richard Mendenhall, Moses Swaim, Thomas Swain, & Nathan Mendenhall, Who are to prepare one Suitable to the occasion & produce to next meeting.

On motion to strike out of the constitution the word Colonizing after considerable debate it was carried, & the word Colonization was Substituted in its place, & ordered to be in-

serted in the constitution. And the Meeting adjourned to meet at Deep River Meeting House the last Monday in September next at eleven of the Clock in the morning—

Thomas Swain Clerk

III

Deep River Meeting House the 20th September 1817

A Quorum of the Delegates from the Branches being convened in General Association, But the President being absent, Jeremiah Hubbard was called to the Chair, a balloting committee was then appointed, when it was announced that the clerk had removed out of the State, the house then proceeded to ballot for one, & a President pro tem. By report from Balloting Committee, Aaron Coffin was duly elected clerk and Richard Mendenhall, President, pro tem. Jeremiah Hubbard was appointed assistant clerk, — The members present from the different branches are from Center David Worth, Job Worth, Thomas Coffin, Joseph Swain, Daniel Worth, Deep River Richard Mendenhall, Jeremiah Hubbard, Aaron Coffin, Robert Stuart, Stephen Gardner, Paul Macy Jur, Asa Folger, James Mendenhall, New Garden Thomas Moore, Benajah Hiet, John Hoskins, Vestal Coffin, Josiah Unthank, Caraway Eli Powell, Thomas Fentriss, Reedy Fork Archibald Bowman, Joel Saunders, Wm Rail, Joseph Colson, Henry White, Spring Field Joel Gilbert Malcolm Morrison, Eli Haworth, Joseph Hunt, Samuel Hunt, John Carter, from which it appears there were 31 members present & 18 absentees —

It appears from the the report of the several Committees appointed in April last, that Paul Macy has provided a book & received in full 1^{00} 50 cents & assisted in transcribing the minutes, — The committee to inspect into the printing Business report they have made some progress they are continued with the addition of David Worth, Jeremiah Hubbard & John Stuart & to report, — It appears that the Deputation to wait on the Baptist Society have not complied with their appointment they are continued & to report, — The Deputation to Salem report they have complied in part they are continued, the committee to enquire into the Slave laws report they have made some

progress, they are continued & to report. The corresponding committee report progress, Richard Mendenhall and Mosses Swaim are continued, Jeremiah Hubbard, Thomas Moore & David Worth are added & to report, — It appears that a part of the committee appointed to prepare a memorial to Congress attended to the Subject & produced an essay to that purport, which was read & refered to a committee for further examination who reported in favor of the address, which the house concurred, and appointed Aaron Coffin, Thomas Fentriss, Thomas Coffin, Joseph Hunt, Vestal Coffin, & Joel Saunders, to furnish the branches with copies & they & each of them are authorized to affix the Signatures of the President & Clerk to each copy of said address, which it may be necessary to furnish & endeavor to procure as many signers, who are not members of the Society, as are willing to sign it, & produce said copies to next meeting. In order to be forwarded to Congress if approved. There was a number of pamphlets produced from the peace Society Ohio the consideration of which is refered to the Diferent branches, who are to report to next meeting their opinion of the propriety of reprinting them, — On motion to raise 50 dollars it was agreed to & refered to a Committee who reported 51 dollars 40 cents to be divided as follow Center 13$ 20 cents Caraway 4$ D River 9^{00} 40 N Garden 12 $60 Reedy Fork 6$ 40, S Field 6$ 20 — The Clerk is authorized to procure the necessary paper for the use of the meeting & draw on the treasurer for remuneration, — On motion it was agreed to appoint a committee to attend Caraway branch, David Worth Job Worth, Thomas Coffin, Richard Mendenhall, Stephen Gardner, Joseph Hunt, Eli Haworth, Jeremiah Hubbard, John Carter, and Josshua Moore, are appointed for that service & to furnish the Documents they are entituled to from this meeting, — and make report to next,

The aggregate amount of Members is 256
Center 66 Caraway 20 Deep River 47 N Garden 60
Reedy Fork 32 Spring Field 31 —
Adjourned to meet at this place on the 4th 2nd day
in November next, at Eleven O, clock *Aaron Coffin Sect'y*

IV

Deep River Meeting House Guilford County the 24th 11th mo. 1817. A Quorum of the Delegates being Convened in General Association the house proceeded to business, the Delegates from Center were David Worth, Mosses Swaim, Job Worth, Thomas Coffin, Daniel Worth, Christopher Swaim, Joseph Swain, John Hodson, Hugh Sherwood, for Deep River, Richard Mendenhall, Jeremiah Hubbard, Aaron Coffin, Robert Stuart, Stephen Gardner, Paul Macy Jr, John Stuart, Nathan Mendenhall, Asa Folger, James Mendenhall, from New Garden, Wm Armfield, Thomas Moore, Benajah Hiet, John Hoskins, Vestal Coffin, Josiah Unthank, Henry Macy, from Caraway Eli Powell, Thomas Fentriss, from Reedy fork, John Draughon, Archibald Bowman, Joel Saunders, William Rail, Henry White, Charles Benbow, Cam Moore, Joseph Britain, for Spring Field Joseph Hunt, Henry Haworth, John Carter, Samuel Kelham, Eli Haworth, Caleb Beals, Joel Gilbert, Malcolm Morrison, Samuel Hunt, Joshua Moore, —

From which it appeared that the whole number of Delegates amounted to 46 that there were present 32 and 14 were absent —from Center one absent, from Caraway 2, D River 2 N. Garden 2 Reedy Fork six & Spring Field one, — The rules of order being lost or not present, there was some produced which being read & some amendments made were adopted, & directed to be recorded, It appears from the report of the committees & members appointed, & continued at last meeting for different purposes, —

That the committee to wait on the baptist Society, have not attended to it, they are continued and to report, That the Committee to consider the expediency of establishing a printing press have made no further progress, they are continued & to report, That the Deputation to Salem have made no further progress, they are continued and to Report, —

That the committee to enquire into the Slave laws, have made no further progress, they are Discontinued, —

The corresponding committee have made no further progress & at their request were discontinued, —

And agreably to a resolve of the house to choose a corresponding Secretary, a balloting took place, when Richard Mendenhall was elected to fill that office, with the same power to correspond, (by & with the advice of his council) that the former committee had, — Nathan Mendenhall, Robert Stuart, and Nathan Hunt, are appointed as council to the corresponding Secretary, —

One of the Committee to attend Caraway branch reported complied with in part, they are continued and to report, —

It appears from the report of those branches who have considered the propriety of reprinting those pamphlets refered to them last meeting that a majority were unfavorable to the measure, the subject is therefore dismissed . . . It appears from the report of those appointed last meeting to procure signers to a memorial to Congress that there were upwards of two hundred & sixty signers, that were not members of the Society. It was therefore directed by the house, that it be sent on to Congress with the signers names annexed, that the Clerk copy it and affix the names, John Stuart & the clerk are appointed for that service who are to send it on to our Representative in Congress (Thomas Settle) & report to next meeting.

On motion of the treasurer to be released, a balloting took place when Nathan Mendenhall was elected to fill that office.

A proposition was Introduced from Reedy Fork branch to choose the Representatives to the General Association Semi annually, which was Indefinitely postponed, —

On motion it was agreed to strike out the word annually from the thirteenth article of the Constitution, —

It appears that of the sum Directed to be raised by last meeting that 41$ was produced & paid over to the Treasurer, Center produced 13$ 20 Caraway none Deep River 7$ New Garden 12$60 Reedy Fork 2$ Spring Field 6$20,

On motion to petition the General Assembly to Incorporate this Society it was committed, — to John Stuart, Richard Mendenhall & David Worth who are to report to next meeting —

The late Treasurer reported that he had received four dollars by virtue of his office, & that he had paid orders to amount of one dollar & fifty cents which left a balance in his hands of two dollars & fifty cents, which he is directed to pay over to the present treasurer.

On motion of a member who voted in the majority, to reconsider the resolution, dismissing the further consideration of reprinting the four first numbers of the friend of peace, it was agreed to, & decided to print by subscription, a considerable number to be distributed gratis, Daniel Worth, Thomas Fentriss, Nathan Mendenhall, William Armfield, Joseph Britain, & Joel Gilbert, are appointed to receive subscriptions, and Jeremiah Hubbard, & Richard Mendenhall are appointed to furnish subscription papers and to report to next meeting.

Adjourned to meet at Center Meeting House on the last Second day in April next at Eleven O, clock

Aaron Coffin Secretary

V

Center Meeting House the 27th of April 1818

The Delegates from the Different branches met in General Association when it appeared by the members returned that the whole number was fifty three that 32 were present & 21 absent, present from Center, Mosses Swaim, David Worth, Job Worth, Joseph Swain, Daniel Worth, Zeno Worth, William Reynolds, Jur, from Deep River Richard Mendenhall, Jeremiah Hubbard, Aaron Coffin, Robert Stuart, Stephen Gardner, John Stuart, Paul Macy Jur, James Mendenhall, (Caraway) Isaac Lamb, Eli Powell, Wm Clark, Lewis Jones, Isaac Farlow, Thomas Fentriss, (New Garden) Benajah Hiet, Elijah Coffin, (Reedy Fork) Henry White, Thomas Hunt, (Spring Field) Joseph Hunt, Joshua Moore, Caleb Beals, Samuel Kelham, Henry Haworth, Malcolm Morrison, Samuel Hunt.

There being a Quorum present the house proceeded to business.

The Committee on the printing business report that they think it not expedient to attempt to establish a printing press at

this time, which report was concurred by the house, & the subject dismissed.

The Committee to wait on the Baptist Society report, they have not attended to it, the same committee are continued consisting of Eli Powell, and Christopher Swaim, & to report.

The committee to wait on the Moravians report no further progress they are discontinued.

The committee to attend Caraway branch report they have attended to it, — The committee appointed to forward on the Memorial to Congress report they have complied therewith, & that they understand from (Thomas Settle) that it was presented to the House & refered to a committee raised on a Similar memorial presented from the yearly meeting of Friends in Baltimore.

The Committee on the motion to petition the General Assembly To Incorporate this Society, report not expedient at this time, which the house concurs. But continues the committee who are to Reconsider the subject & report the result of their deliberations to next meeting, —

The committee to prepare Subscription papers & procure Signers for reprinting the 4 first numbers of the friend of peace, report that the Branches were furnished with the necessary papers, that 71$ is subscribed exclusive of Deep River from whom there is no report — John Stuart is appointed to collect the money Subscribed, & to procure as many copies as the same will purchase & to report when complied with.

A proposition was Introduced from Center branch to Search into the condition of the free People of color, and the expediency of enforcing the law against kidnapping, — and of sending a Delegate to the next Meeting of The American Convention held in Philadelphia for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, & improving the condition of the African race. Said propositions was committed to Isaac Lamb, David Worth, & Richard Mendenhall who are to report thereon. Also a proposition from Springfield was taken up, to devise some plan which may more fully inform the public mind, of the principles of this

Society, Joseph Hunt, & Daniel Worth, are appointed a committee to consider the subject & report thereon.

On motion of the President, Stephen Gardner, & Aaron Coffin, were appointed to take a Bond of the Treasurer Nathan Mendenhall, for the faithful discharge of the duties of his office, —

The committee on the propositions of Center report, that they think best to refer the subjects committed to them to next meeting, which the house concurs so far as to recommit it, & for it to be reported to next meeting. Jeremiah Hubbard, Richard Mendenhall, David Worth, John Stuart & Stephen Gardner, are appointed for that service, & to recommend such measures as they may think most advisable, also to attend the Several Branches which constitute this and report their situation, —

On motion it was resolved that in the event of sending one or more Representatives to the American convention for the abolition of Slavery &c held in Philadelphia, that all reasonable expence shall be born by the Society except the loss of their time.

The committee on the proposition from Springfield report that a committee be appointed to prepare an essay tending to develope the views of Society & produce to next meeting, which was agreed to, Joseph Hunt & Daniel Worth are appointed a committee for that service & to report to next, —

Resolved that John Stuart be authorized, & that he call on the treasurer for a sum not exceeding fifty five dollars to supply the Deficiency of a sum subscribed but not yet all collected (which it is thought will ultimately amount to one hundred dollars) for the purchase of the four first numbers of the friend of peace as far as one hundred dollars will go, the pamphlets to be forwarded on to this Society as soon as practicable, & the money Borrowed of the treasury to be refunded, as soon as collected of the subscribers, And to report his care & progress to next meeting.

There was fifty nine dollars & fifty cents advanced by private Individuals of the separate branches, on the credit of

the Subscribers for the four first numbers of the friend of peace & receipts given by the clerk to those who advanced it, which leaves a balance to be drawn of forty dollars & fifty cents by John Stuart.

There was four Dollars received in full for carraway of the sum apportioned to them as their Quota of 51$ 40 cents and 4$15 cents received in part for Reedy fork branch, both of which was directed to the treasury —

In consequence of the neglect of some of the branches the aggregate amount of members cannot be assertained. Adjourned to meet at Deep River Meeting House the last second day in in October next at eleven O Clock,

Aaron Coffin secretary

VI

Deep River Meeting House October the 26th 1818

A number of the Delegates from the Branches met but not being a Quorum & the President being absent Richard Mendenhall was appointed President, pro, tem, and the meeting adjourned for ten minutes, — Met again agreably to adjourment, when it appeared that the aggregate amount of Representatives was 58 of whom 29 were present & 29 absent there not being a Quorum, to do business there was nothing done except the dividing the pamphlet the friend of peace, which was done in conformity to the direction of the president. Each branch except Center & deep River, received books in full, for the money advanced. Center & D. River received one half in books & one half in money each, by & with the consent of the chairman of each of those branches. It was then agreed that Information should be given to the absentees. At the time adjourned to, by the chairman of each branch that were present, Thomas Fentriss was to inform Caraway & Enos Mendenhall Springfield members — adjourned to the 6th of next month to meet at Deep River Meeting House at 11 OClock.

Deep River Meeting House the 6th of the 11th m° 1818

A number of the Representatives from the different branches met in General Association agreably to adjournment, — The

President not being present Richard Mendenhall was Chosen President pro, tem, the amount of Delegates the same as at last meeting of whom 31 were present, & 27 absent — There being a Quorum present the house proceeded to business, ——

A proposition was introduced from Reedy fork branch for an explanation of the 12th article of the constitution as far as respects mal Conduct misdemeanor &c & what crimes shall be sufficient to expel a member, on the question being put, It was considered that the article was sufficient without an amendment, & the proposition rejected.

The former Rules of Order & decorum being found on record it was resolved that they be established in place of the late rules now in case, with two amendments, one to the first article to add the word (endeavor to) & to the eighth article to add ("except to explain Himself when not Understood") which two clauses the clerk is directed to Insert, — No report from Eli Powell & Christopher Swaim who were to attend the baptist Society, —

A motion to petition the legislature on behalf of the free people of color was lost, — John Stuart reported that he had laid out fifty dollars for books (to wit) the four first numbers of the friend of peace, & that the other fifty dollars was not laid Out & remains subject to the order of the house, he is therefore directed to pay it over to the treasurer. The house also approves of the Division of the pamphlets which took place at the meeting on the 26th Ultimo — The committee to take a bond on the Treasurer report complied with, — The committee appointed last meeting reported in favor of a committee to take into consideration cases of persons kidnapped & unlawfully held in bondage, Ordered to lie on the table, — A communication received from the corresponding Committee of the Tennessee Manumission Society, was read, and it was highly pleasing to us to find them resolutely progressing forward to the relief of oppressed humanity, ——

Also a letter was received from Elias B Caldwell, on behalf of the American Society, at Washington City, requesting a full explanation of the views of this Society, the corresponding

Secretary with the assistance of his Council is directed to give the necessary Information, —

No report from Joseph Hunt & Daniel Worth, who were to prepare an essay & produce to this meeting, setting forth the views of the Society, they are continued, Eli Haworth & Job Worth are appointed to notify them, —

The committee appointed at last meeting reported in favor of petitioning the General Assembly at next Session for Incorporation, which on taking the question was negatived, And the following committee were appointed (to wit) Nathan Mendenhall, Thomas Moore, Vestal Coffin, Richard Mendenhall, Henry Ballinger, Stephen Henly, & Aaron Coffin to review the constitution, & propose such amendments as in their Judgment may be beneficial, — Also to prepare an essay of a petition to the General Assembly, Soliciting that body to Incorporate this Society, & report the same to next meeting, Jeremiah Hubbard, & John Stuart were appointed a balloting committee, — When a balloting took place for President Clerk, & Treasurer, for the ensuing years, —

From the report of the Balloting, Mosses Swaim was Re-elected President, Aaron Coffin Clerk, & Nathan Mendenhall Treasurer, — Resolved that the appointing a committee on the subject of kidnapping, be refered to next meeting — No report from the committee on the subject of sending a Delegation to the American convention, ——

The committee to visit the Several branch Meetings Report they have complied in part, they are continued, with the addition of Josiah Unthank, Henry Ballinger, Thomas Moore, Job Worth, Vestal Coffin, & Aaron Coffin, & to report to next. The aggregate amount of Members not assertained this time, there was fifty cents on the bank of South Carolina found on the table, — Adjourned to Meet at Center Meeting house on the last second day in April next at eleven O clock —

Aaron Coffin Secretary

VII

Center Meeting house the 26th of the 4th month April 1819

The following Delegates met in General Association from the several branches of the Manumission & colonization Society of North Carolina Viz

From Center
- Job Worth
- Daniel Worth
- Joseph Swain
- John Hodson
- Zeno Worth
- David Worth

Spring Field
- Malcolm Morrison
- John Beals
- Joseph Hunt
- Caleb Beals

Caraway
- Jesse Henly
- Thomas Fentriss

New Garden
- William Armfield
- Thomas Moore
- Benajah Hiet
- Josiah Unthank
- Renal Swain
- Henry Ballenger
- Timothy Macy
- Joshua Dieks
- Amos Hiet

Deep River
- Richard Mendenhall
- Nathan Mendenhall
- Aaron Coffin
- Stephen Gardner
- Jonathan Gardner

Reedy Fork
- Henry White

It appears that the whole number of Delegates chosen is 57 and but 27 present there not being a Quorum & being but two members wanting to make a majority, it was on motion agreed to proceed to business, & refer the proceedings to next meeting for their Sanction, —

The President being absent, Richard Mendenhall was appointed pro tempore to fill that office —

Richard Mendenhall Reports he has not complied with his appointment to write to Elias B Caldwell, on behalf of the Society, Explaining its views, he is continued & to report to next meeting, —

The committee continued last meeting to prepare an essay setting forth the views of the Society, report they have not complied with their appointment, & requested to be released from any further service therein, which was acceded to by the house, —

The Committee appointed to revise the Constitution reported an amendment which was read & refered to next meeting, —

Also produced an address to the General Assembly Soliciting them to Incorporate this Society which was read & refered to next meeting. The committee to visit the Several Branches which constitute this, Report they have not Generally attented to it, arising in part from want of Information of the time of their meetings, and of course can give but little Information, as to their progress or Situation they are discharged from any further service therein, —

The consideration of the Subject of sending a delegate to the American Convention, is refered to next meeting, —

The consideration of the subject of kidnapping is reffered to David Worth, Nathan Mendenhall, & Banajah Hiet, who are to report their Judgment thereon to next meeting, —

A Proposition from Center to limit the regular branch meetings to two in each year was refered to a committee of the whole who reported in favor of refering the subject to the several branches, and for them to send up their report to next meeting, which was concurred by the house, —

A proposition from Center to print 250 copies of the constitution was refered to next meeting, —

A proposition from Spring field recommending an address to the Legislature on behalf of the people of color, was discussed in the committee who reported in favor of refering the Subject to a Select committee, which the house agreed to, —

Richard Mendenhall, David Worth, & William Armfield, are appointed to prepare an essay suitable to the occasion & produce to next meeting, —

A proposition from Spring field was laid before the committee for the branch meetings in future to choose their representatives by nomination instead of Balloting, who decided in favor of an Indefinite postponement, which was concurred by the house.

A Resolution directing the clerk of the association to furnish each branch with a copy of the proceedings thereof was Introduced & also to furnish the committees with copies of their appointment, as soon as may be after the rise of each association & that he receive five dollars pr year as a compensation for his Services which was negatived, —

A resolution was Introduced by the treasurer to put the money on hand, out on Interest, returnable at each established meeting, that he be allowed one sixth part of the Income accruing thereon, for his trouble which was agreed to, —

the amount of members are; from Center 65 D River 48 N Garden 60 Caraway 42 Reedy fork 31, Spring field 35 aggregate 281.

The house adjourns to Deep River to meet on the last sixth day in August at Eleven O, clock A. M.

Aaron Coffin secretary

VIII

Deep River Meeting House August the 27th 1819

The following members from the Several branches met in General Association —

Center	Deep River	New Garden
David Worth	Richard Mendenhall	William Armfield
Mosses Swaim	Robert Stuart	Timothy Macy
Job Worth	Joseph Iddings	Renal Swain
John Hodson	Jonathan Gardner	Henry Ballinger
Zeno Worth	John Baldwin	Josiah Unthank
Benjn Swaim	Asa Folger	Thomas Moore
Daniel Worth	John Stuart	Vestal Coffin
Joseph Swain	Nathan Mendenhall	

Caraway	Reedy Fork	Spring field
Eli Powell	Henry White	Joseph Hunt
Phineas Nixon	Thomas Hunt	Nathan Hunt
	David Meredith	Joshua Moore
	Israel Stanley	Henry Haworth
		Samuel Hunt
		George Springer

It appear[d] that a Quorum were present & the house proceeded to business ——

The house on motion agreed to accept the Journal of last meeting.

The corresponding Secretary Reported that he had written to Elias B Caldwell in answer to his Request, a copy of which letter was read & approved by the house, —

A copy of the constitution as amended was read, the first article was Struck out, a motion was made to alter the third article, so that for every ten members there should be one Representative to the General Association, which was lost, the other articles being read were adopted, except a small alteration in the eleventh article, reducing the established branch meetings from four to two in each year, which amendment was agreed to, —

The address to the Legislature on behalf of Incorporation was read & ordered to lie on the table, No report from the Committee on the Subject of kidnapping they are continued & to report to next meeting, —

The reference relative to printing 250 copies of the constitution was ordered to lie on the table, — the reference on the subject of sending a delegate to the American Convention in Philadelphia was Indefinitely postponed, —

The Committee to prepare an address to the legislature of this State on behalf of the people of color, report not complied with, they are continued & to report to next meeting, —

A proposition from Spring field was Introduced, to strike the word Manumission out of the title of this Society, — After a lengthy discussion it was agreed to refer it to a select Com-

mittee (to wit) John Stuart, Zeno Worth, Nathan Mendenhall, Thomas Moore & William Armfield, who are to take the subject into consideration, & report their Judgment to next meeting. A proposition from Caraway was Introduced to choose representatives to the General Association by nomination which was Indefinitely postponed, —

Also a proposition from the same branch to afford some pecuniary aid to the American Society for colonizing the free people of color, which was referred to the committee on the title, —

An Essay was Introduced by the Secretary, with a view to circulate to the different branches, which was adopted by the house, & Directed to be filed in the Secretaries office, and that each branch be furnished with a copy thereof, and that Richard Mendenhall & Jeremiah Hubbard with the assistance of the Secretary examine & correct the same for the press, and send it forward to the Editor of the Raleigh Register for publication, ——

There was ten copies of the minutes of the second edition of the second annual Meeting of the colonizing Society, held in the City of Washington received, which were directed to be distributed, one copy to each branch, Except Caraway & Reedy fork, who are to have two copies each, — and one copy to be kept in the Secretaries office, & one in the office of the corresponding Secretary. On motion of John Stuart, a committee was appointed consisting of Nathan Hunt, Jeremiah Hubbard, & David Worth, to examine a pamphlet on the Subject of war, in a series of letters addressed to Caleb Strong, late Governor of Massachusetts, & to report their Judgment on the Utility of reprinting it, to next meeting, — The house adjourned to meet at Deep River Meeting house on the third second Day in October next at Eleven of the Clock A. M. ——

Aaron Coffin Secretary

IX

Deep River Meeting House Guilford County the 18th of October 1819, a number of Representatives from the Several

branches being convened in General Association the members present were

from Center	Deep River	New Garden
David Worth	Richard Mendenhall	William Armfield
Joseph Swain	Nathan Mendenhall	Isaac Armfield
Daniel Worth	Robert Stuart	Joseph Idelot
Mosses Swaim	Joseph Iddings	John Hoskins
Zeno Worth	John Stuart	Jesse Stanley
John Hodson	John Gorden	Thomas Moore
Job Worth	Aaron Coffin	
William Dennis		
Benjamin Swaim		

Caraway none	Reedy fork	Spring field
	Henry White	Nathan Hunt
	Thomas Hunt	
	David Meridith	
	Israel Stanley	
	Camm Moore	

From which it appear[d], agreably to the late arrangement there was a Quorum convened but the president being absent John Stuart was appointed to fill that office pro tempore and the house proceeded to business, —

The committee on the Subject of affording pecuniary aid to the Colonizing Society at Washington, Report that they think this Society cannot at present become an auxiliary to the Colonizing society, & that our funds in the treasury are too limited to make a respectable donation at this time, which was agreed to by the house, —

The Committee on the Subject of kidnapping report, that a standing Committee be appointed to act in needful cases with care & discretion, & report their proceedings to each stated meeting, to which the house agreed, Mosses Swaim, Nathan Mendenhall, Vestal Coffin, Eli Powell, Thomas Hunt, & Joel Gilbert, are appointed a committee to act in Such cases until further orders, — The subject of petitioning the Legislature for Incor-

poration, was Indefinitely postponed, — The proposition for printing 250 copies of the constitution was Indefinitely postponed, ——

The Decision of last meeting respecting the sending a Delegate to the American Convention, which was Indefinitely postponed, was reconsidered, & passed in the negative, the corresponding Secretary is directed to Inform that body we are not prepared to send a Delegate to their convention at this time, —— The Committee to prepare an address to the Legislature on behalf of the people of color report not complied with, the Subject was Dropped & the committee released from that service, ——

The committee on the Subject of Striking out the word Manumission from the Title of this Society, reported in favor of retaining that word in our title as Usual, which was agreed to by the house, ——

On motion it was resolved that in future it shall be considered the duty of the secretary to furnish each branch meeting, with the necessary parts of the Documents of the preceding Association, & that he be allowed five dollars a year for his Services, & he is hereby authorized to Draw on the treasurer for the money, —

On motion it was resolved for the committee on the Subject of kidnapping to take into consideration, the case of a number of colored people in the eastern part of this State, Supposed to be Illegally held in bondage, and if the committee think proper to pursue the Subject, they are authorized to draw on the treasurer for Money to bear their expences, —

David Worth & Daniel Worth were appointed a balloting Committee, & the house proceeded to ballot for a President Secretary & Treasurer, —— and from the report of the Committee it appeared that Mosses Swaim was reelected President, Aaron Coffin Secretary & Nathan Mendenhall Treasurer, — The treasurer reported the amount of the treasury to be 55$ which is out on Interest, in such hands as to be subject to the call of the house which report the house accepted.

The house adjourned to Meet at Center Meeting house in Guilford County, on the last second day in April next at Eleven O,Clock A. M. ——

Aaron Coffin Secretary.

The Constitution of the Manumission & Colonization Society of North Carolina, ——

The Committee appointed by the above mentioned Society at their General Association, to revise and amend their constitution, & take into consideration the condition of the oppressed Africans, are of opinion that at this eventful era, when the attention of Europe & America are arrested by the Sufferings of Africa, or of the African Race, — that it behoves us as a Nation, to consider whether we are acting consistent with the liberal ideas of freedom, we have long held forth to the world. Without entering into a critical disquisition of the matter we are free to observe, that we adhere to the Declaration made by our country Men in the year (1776) Viz, "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain Unalienable rights, that among these are life liberty & the pursuit of happiness," — That the command of the great father of Mankind is, that we do unto others as we would be done by, — and that the human race however varied in color are Justly entituled to Freedom, & that it is the duty of Nations as well as Individuals, enjoying the blessings of freedom to remove this dishonor of the Christian character from among them, — But more especially in these United States where the principles of freedom are so highly professed — The toleration of Slavery must be more degrading in proportion to our profession of being more enlightened, — from an Impression of the truth of these principles, from an earnest wish to bear our testimony against Involuntary Slavery, to spread it abroad as far as the Sphere of our influence may extend, & to afford our friendly assistance to those who may be engaged in the same laudable pursuit, and in the hope of Support from the supreme being, who takes as an offering to himself, those benevolent acts we perform to our fellow Creatures, —

we have adopted the following articles as a constitution

Article)

1st) This Society shall be Designated by the name of the Manumission & Colonization Society, of North Carolina ——

)

2nd) There Shall be a General Association of this Society held Semi annually, which shall consist of Representatives from the different branches thereof, which are or may be organized agreably to this constitution, whose duty it shall be to transact the business of the Society, they shall once in 2 years elect by ballot a President, Secretary & Treasurer, —

)

3rd) Each branch of this Society shall elect Representatives to the General association by ballot, whose service shall continue 2 yrs. not more than seven nor less than five Including the Chairman, who shall be considered a member of the Association during his continuance in office, fifteen Representatives when met shall constitute a Quorum, whose business it shall be to Deliberate upon, & adopt Such measures as in their Judgment will be likely to promote the gradual Abolition of Slavery, —

)

4th) The Association shall have power to raise money to Defray the necessary expences of the Society (But in raising or appropriating money, it will be necessary to have the votes of two thirds of the members present in favor of it) which shall be apportioned to the different branches in proportion to the number of their members, the money so raised to be forwarded by each branch respectively, to the treasurer of the Society, ——

)

5th) It shall be the duty of the President to Preside at Each meeting or General Association during his continuance in office (but in case of any vacancy of the chair the house shall appoint one pro tempore) he shall keep order & decorum, & give such Information of the State of Society as he may

be in possession of, and recommend such measures as in his opinion will tend to promote the benevolent views of this Institution, he shall have power to adjourn from time to time, until a quorum are convened, and when the nature of the case demands it he may call a meeting in the recess of the Established meetings, ——

) 6th) It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep fair records of the proceedings of the house, so as to form a regular Journal of the transactions of the Society, he shall be considered a member of the association for the branch to which he belongs during his continuance in office.

) 7th) It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all money Collected for the use of the Society, he shall make regular entries of all moneys received, or paid out, & report the state of the Treasury (at least) once in every year, ——

) 8th) The General Association shall have the exclusive priviledge of publishing or printing any essay on the subject of Slavery, & the examination of any manuscript, on said Subject before the publication, that may have originated with any member of the Society. When any essay is published on behalf of the Society, It shall be signed by the President & Secretary.

) 9th) It shall be the duty of each branch or organization, to elect one of their members as Chairman, also a clerk and Cashier, whose Election & duties shall be regulated, by the rules adopted for the officers of the association, not less than seven members shall constitute a Quorum in any of the Separate branches.

) 10th) The reception of members shall take place at the respective branches, any free white male wishing to become a member, must be recommended by two of the body, & when received have a majority of the members present in his favor, ——

) 11th) Each branch of this Society shall meet twice in each year, at such time & place, as to suit the con-

venience of the members, & be designated by some appropriate name for Distinction, they shall have power to make bye laws or rules for the house, consistent with this constitution, they may Impeach a member & Disown him for misdemeanor or mal conduct, or any flagrant violation of the principles of this Institution, Subject however to to appeal to the General Association, —

) The General association shall have power to amend
12th) or alter this Constitution, when ever two thirds of the members present concur therein, ——

Ratified in Convention or General Association at Center Meeting House, in Guilford County the 20th of the 7th month July 1816

Mosses Swaim President
Thomas Swain Clerk

Revised by a committee appointed for that purpose, the amendment of the Committee approved, & ratified by the General Association at Deep River Meeting House in Guilford County the 27th of the 8th month (August) 1819

Mosses Swaim President
Aaron Coffin Secretary

Ratified agreably to the late amendment at a General Association held at Deep River Meeting House in Guilford County the 18th of the 10th month (October) 1819 —

John Stuart President pro tem
Aaron Coffin Secretary

X

Center Meeting House in Guilford County the 24th of the 4th Month (April) 1820 —

Twelve Members of the General Association of the Manumission & Colonization Society of North Carolina met agreably to adjournment & took their seats, —

From Center	Caraway
David Worth	Eli Powell
Job Worth	Thomas Fentriss
Zeno Worth	Isaac Farlow

Deep River	Reedy Fork
Richard Mendenhall	Charles Benbow
John Stuart	Joseph Paulson
John Gorden	
Aaron Coffin	

No Delegates from New Garden, Spring field none

It appearing that a quorum were not convened and the President absent, On motion it was agreed to appoint one pro tem, David Worth was Chosen to fill the Chair, & there being near a Quorum, the house proceeded to business, & agreed to refer their proceedings to next Association for their Sanction.

The Corresponding Secretary reported he had not complied with his appointment in writing to the American convention he is continued for that purpose & to Report, —

The Committee on the subject of kidnapping made no report, nor is there any report from the Committee relative to a number of colored people held in bondage supposed Illegally in the eastern part of this State, —

Richard Mendenhall & John Stuart are appointed to refund a sum of money amounting to eighteen dollars collected for the use of the American Society, to the Original Subscribers through the Channel by which it was Collected, —

Richard Mendenhall reported on behalf of the Committee that the essay ordered to be printed, had for some reasons hitherto been neglected, — and it being considered rather unseasonable to publish it now in this State, and a motion to that effect being made, the committee were released from any further service therein, ——

On motion it was agreed to appoint a committee to review the essay alluded to, with a view (If they think best) to have it published in the East Tennessee Patriot, Richard Mendenhall & John Stuart are appointed for that service, and to report to next meeting, —

On Motion the Secretary was authorized to call on the treasurer for five dollars the amount of his Salary for the present year, between this & next meeting, —

The house adjourns to meet at Deep River Meeting House on the last second day in the tenth month (October) next at 11 o Clock

Aaron Coffin Sec'y

XI

Deep River Meeting House in Guilford County the 30th of the 10th month 1820 The following members met from the several branches (of the Manumission & Colonization Society of North Carolina agreably to adjournment) in General Association —

From Center	Deep River
John Hodson	Stephen Gardner
Job Worth	John Stuart
Daniel Worth, Jr.	Joseph Iddings
	John Gorden
	Aaron Coffin
New Garden	**Reedy Fork**
Benajah Hiett	Henry White
Vestal Coffin	Thomas Hunt
Thomas Moore	Matthew Stanley
Isaac White	
Caraway	**Spring field**
None	None
absentees	
Moses Swaim	Joseph Aydelott
Benj'n Swaim	John Wilson
John Beard	Elihu Coffin
Reuben Worth	Charles Benbow
Richard Mendenhall	Thomas C Moore
Robert Stuart	Joseph Paulson

There being a Quorum Convened & the President absent John Stuart was appointed to fill the Chair pro tem and the house proceeded to business —

The house agreed to accept the Journal of last meeting held a[t] Center in the fourth month last, —

No report from the Corresponding Secretary with regard to his appointment to write to the American Convention on behalf of the Society he is continued & to report, ——

The Committee on the Subject of kidnapping made no report.

The same Committee made no Report with regard to a number of Colored People in the eastern part of this State Supposed to be Illegally held in bondage, they are continued & to report to next meeting ——

The Committee appointed to review & report on an essay as respects the propriety of printing it, reported not complied with, they are continued, & to report to next meeting, —

The proposition from New Garden branch to Strike out the word Colonization from the title of our Society, was refered to next Meeting, —

A proposition from Deep River branch to address the Ensuing Legislature was negatived, —

There was two Essays Introduced from Reedy Fork branch one Entitled an apology for becoming a Manumission Member and the Other comparing some among Christian professors with Mahometans as far as Respects Slavery, — which were read, approved, & directed to be signed by the President & Secretary, on behalf of the Society, & that they be forwarded on to the Editor of the Emancipator for publication. The Corresponding Secretary is requested to forward them on to the Editor with a copy of this minute, —

The house adjourned for ten minutes,

Met agreably to adjournment ——

John Gorden & Job Worth were appointed a balloting Committee. The house then proceeded to Elect officers for the ensuing year, and from the report of the balloting, It appears that Aaron Coffin is Elected President, Elijah Coffin, Secretary, and Nathan Mendenhall Treasurer, —

There being no Delegates from Caraway & Spring Field branches, John Hodson is appointed to attend Caraway branch

Meeting & John Stuart to attend Springfield branch, with a copy of the apology for becoming a Manumission member, & to report to next meeting, —

This meeting received twenty four Copies of the minutes of the American Convention held at Philadelphia for last year (from that Society) which were directed to be equally divided among the branches. The corresponding Secretary is requested to write to them & return the thanks of this meeting for the favor. Job Worth is appointed to forward Center's quota of said pamphlets. Benajah Hiet for Newgarten, John Gorden for Deep River, Henry White for Reedy fork John Hodson for Caraway and John Stuart for Spring field.

Resolved that the late Secretary be authorized to call on the Treasurer for remuneration for his services, if there is any thing coming since the last Settlement, ——
Stephen Gardner is appointed as an additional Council to the Corresponding Secretary, ——

Resolved that when any Essay shall be approved by the Association & Directed to be published, It shall be the duty of the Secretary to record it at large in the bound book, — On motion it was agreed, that in future the meetings of the Association shall be held at Deep River Meeting House & that next meeting fix upon the time when they shall be held, —

The Author's Apology for becoming a Member of the Manumission & Colonization Society, Recommended by him to his Friends & all Christian professors for Examination and Serious Consideration, ——

Manumission, as a necessary Consequence, always preceding Colonization, —— I have been often deeply concerned for the oppressed African race; and, when their way to liberty appeared very Gloomy I heard the Manumission Society was forming in the County of Guilford (N. C.) which, though well pleasing to me, did not Create in my mind an Expectation that it could alter their condition Shortly, but I believe it was the right way to effect a gradual Emancipation, & that it would

soon, in some measure, alleviate the situation of many who groan Unheard by the ear of Humanity both in the cradle and in the field. ——

Shortly after the Society was formed I understood that it was increasing fast, and, though I perceived there was considerable public Anxiety concerning what would be the Issue, yet I had no Expectation that the matter affected me. —— I had my friends to converse with; we were clear of Slaveholding, & we were not the cause of their sufferings; & for my own part I have ever been opposed to receive any profit from their labor Unless they were paid due wages for the same: so I concluded that I had nothing more to do than to wish success to the cause and then remain neutral, but I was not Suffered to enjoy quietude of mind in this self-conceited security — for when meditating

On the purity of Christian principles (in which it is the desire of my heart ever to be found, walking) and viewing the subject as connected with them, I plainly perceived the good Samaritan with my excuse, might have passed by the wounded Jew who had fallen among thieves, he being clear of the Jew's distressed condition, and moreover If the Jew had been able to have helped himself, he would not have suffered his body to have been defiled by the hands of the Samaritan, because there appears to have been no lawful Intercourse, between the people of Samaria & the Jews. The priest & the Levite passed him, and only looked on him — but as soon as the Samaritan saw his fellow creature in distress, he confered not with flesh & blood, but obeyed the spirit of Christ in his own bosom Instigating him to do unto the Stranger that which he desired should be done for him under the same circumstances; — yea we behold in him Christian humanity, we behold him alighting from his beast, and assisting the poor stripped & wounded Jew to sit thereon, walking himself although it was a place of robbers, and to all appearance Dangerous: yet these things did not prevent him from discharging his duty, nor would they have been any excuse in case he had omitted it. It is not difficult to know

our duty in such cases, nor to discover what we would another should do for us in the same situation. Arrived at the inn we find he called the host & having delivered the wounded man to him, he charged him to take care of him; and, having paid the money then required, left the place Stating that he would pay all further charges on his return. In this occurrence that which appears a useful lesson is to observe the Priest & Levite passing their afflicted brother & giving him no assistance. Possibly these men regarded him with a degree of common pity, and the cause of their not aiding him was, not from a want of good will (In the common way of speaking with us) but from their apprehensions about their personal safety, in a situation so dangerous, which prevented their taking care of him; & perhaps, giving their minds ease by the Usual method of Reasoning, that as they were not the cause of his Suffering they could not be accountable, & not being bound by the same law that the Samaritan was, who I believe expected not to be Judged by the good will, but by the deeds done in the body. — To return, I perceived that this construction might have been put upon my conclusion; namely since I had not been a means of their servitude I would not be a means of their restoration to liberty; this with a few may appear reasonable but it did not bear weight with me. I believe the case was, that I had kept the matter at too great a distance from me, & I believe it is the case with too many at this day. I had not endeavored to bring myself to the test nor to examine what a Christian's duty was in Such a situation, I had not, in thought, placed myself in their Stead, to endeavor to feel the enormous weight of my soul's affliction, and the extent of its degradation, I had not considered my Children torn from me and Sold In Georgia or Alabama, or the husband of my Daughter, Seised sold & conveyed to the one or the other of those places: and, after arriving there, escaping from his tyrants & having returned in Safety to his wife & Children, beheld their Joy at meeting so unexpectedly, & witnessed the despair occasioned them by his being retaken, handcuffed, chained, severely beaten, because natural affection had Instigated him to return to those objects which were dear

to him as life; and he, in despite of all entreaties in his behalf, separated from them and prevented ever returning to them, or even hearing what had become of them. Such I have frequently known done to the people of color; but I had no thought it would be done to me or mine: I knew it could not, there existed a law to protect us. It is no small part of our work to be brought under this close examination. We have no belief that such a traffic will ever take place in our families, If we did Surely our voices would be heard pleading their cause. Let us in Idea place ourselves in their Situation. Should we not be confounded to See Christians of every denomination so backward to advocate our case: Should we not cry out? they do not lay it to heart or they would effect something for our relief. We have no voice; If we plead our right to liberty we receive abuse, no one listens to our Supplications; nor does any advocate our cause in Equity; we are beaten at discretion by wicked & hard hearted task masters; our wives are not permitted to pay those attentions to their infants which their helpless age requires: no — they are left suffering with hunger, naked in the dirt & flies; trusted with those who by reason of their Infancy are Incapable of attending to them; their feeble screams disregarded by their cruel oppressors; & if sick unto Death we have only the pecuniary Interest of our masters as the pledge of our lives. — The above Description I trust will not be disputed or denied by any who are acquainted with the treatment the Slaves receive in our Country. Wide Indeed is the difference between our Circumstances in life & theirs, although we are frequently heard to complain that we labor under many Difficulties. by whom are these things to be pondered? — Certainly by the followers of the prince of peace who lay under the obligations of their faith to Suffer with the afflicted. for what purposes were their Understandings enlightened? but to perceive every obstacle to the dominion of Christ, & to use the means & talents bestowed Upon them for their removal.

And not trust merely to the good will they have for Righteousness and Justice. Christians can only expect to be rewarded

according to the deeds done in the body. — Under these considerations I found myself a Manumission Member & my extent of aiding in the cause of Suffering humanity is bounded only by my ability.

On the subject of Colonization there appears to be difference of opinion. It is truly an important Subject, For my part I can State, that as I am fully persuaded emancipation originated from divine wisdom, So I trust that the same Unerring guide will open a way for that peoples preservation in this matter; and confidently believe, that they who wait on God for right direction, in this, as in all other works of Righteousness, will be favored with it. —— I do not feel free to project or plan any method by my own Wisdom, but only to state, that I am humbly thankful for having lived to see the day in which the lord has been graciously pleased to Influence so many of different Denominations of Christians to stand forth & plead for Universal Justice: Inclining numbers to bestow large & liberal donations for the relief of those poor distressed Exiles, from off whose necks Christianity has broken the yoke of bondage, & made way for their return to their native and longed for home; with glad tidings of great Joy to many that sit in darkness causing Ethiopia to Stretch forth her hands unto God. — I believe it is the divine will, to begin, in this generation, to civilize those cruel African Nations, which have so long preyed on their own people with such unparrelleled brutality, and to such extent that millions of their population groan in other parts of the world, Under that cruel bondage to which they they have consigned them. — Yea! I believe it is the will of the Righteous Judge to civilize them, Instrumentally, by their own Sons & Daughters, whom he has Chosen in the land of their captivity, where he has Caused many of their oppressors to become able advocates for them: Verily I believe it is the work of him who alone knoweth how to bring good out of Evil & to be found by them who seek him not. ——

Read approved & ordered to be published
In the General Association ———

Some Christian Professors weighed in the balance with Mahometans, and found wanting. —

When I meditate on that divine plan of redemption for sinful man, explained in the New Testament, and exemplified therein by the lives of its holy Founder, and his immediate followers, and compare the present practice of a large portion of professing Christians with it, I am shocked at their great declension, and filled with sensations, awful and astonishing, at the unbounded mercy of God, and His long suffering justice. When I behold men professing Christianity, holding in unconditional Slavery their fellow-creatures, and dooming their guiltless unoffending offspring to the same fate, I am convinced that they wrest its doctrines, and pervert its principles to their love of gain, and worldly advancement, and I am confounded to think under the same dignified title, and living in a land so highly extolled and far famed for liberty and equal rights as this, they are concerned in trafficking for their fellow-creatures, buying and selling them as if they were brutes, disregarding the sacred obligations of Marriage or the dearest ties of kindredship, separating the husband and Wife, or tearing the weeping offspring from the arms of their distracted parents; and selling them to men who will convey them so far from the dear objects of their love, as to prevent their indulging the most distant idea of again beholding each other in this state of being. Should any one assert that droves of slaves are driven along the public roads, through many states of the Union, more frequently than droves, of cattle, horses, or hogs, we might be ready to scruple his veracity: but the fact is as manifest as the light of the sun, particularly in this State, (N. C.) where there are at least five droves of the former, to one of the latter. How can these dealers in mankind profess to look to the Prince of Peace for the salvation of their souls, who commanded his followers strictly to 'do to all men as they would that men should do to them,' and continue, so presumptuously, to oppress their own species? Is it possible that any rational being who is acquainted with this injunction, can break it ignorantly? No: — Nor does any one need instruction in its intention, the thing

is selfevident; for what man knows so well as himself, what he would have another do for him, nay, it is morally impossible that any one should know as well. Riding on the public road one day I unexpectedly overtook a drove of these much injured people. Among them I saw six good looking men fastened to a long heavy chain, each man was attached to it by one smaller chain, suspended from an iron collar, rivetted round his neck, and another fettered to one of his ankles; and some were handcuffed. Thus these had travelled some hundreds of miles, till their flesh was wounded in many places, by their cruel shackles, (around which, old rags were wrapped) and had some hundreds yet to travel, in this condition. I was moved at the sight, (though not an uncommon one, here) so that I was preserved calm with difficulty. I thought of the cries of the poor and those who had none to help them; and soon as I got by their side, I said to them, 'Poor suffering mortals, what have you done that you are not permitted to walk at liberty.' One of them replied "Master, we have done nothing: but we are taken from our wives and children, and it was well known, that we could not be brought away, unless so confined that we could not get away." While this man was speaking deeply felt sorrow was visible in the countenance and deportment of the rest. Thus I left them limping painfully along, unable to comfort, succour, or relieve them.

Some may perhaps imagine, after perusing the preceding remarks, that I have endeavoured to state the utmost scope of my information on the subject, but the case is quite the reverse; I have described only a small part of my knowledge of suffering humanity, nor was it my design, in this essay to pursue that subject, but to compare slaveholding professors of Christianity with slaveholding professors of Mahometanism, in order to discover which of them are most Christian in practice.

I believe that by the will of Divine Providence, Judah Paddock, and James Riley, have drunk deeply of the bitter cup of slavery on the coast of Africa, in a part of that land, whence so many thousand persons have been brought, and they and their descendants doomed to drink the dregs of the same cup

in our country styled Christian: and after having been enabled to endure an extremity of bodily torture far surpassing belief that humanity could support, they and a train of fellow-suffering witnesses have been restored to their native home. The narratives of these persons have excited a curiosity which has been the means of diffusing considerable information among the United States' population, respecting the manners and customs of the Arabians: leaving us without excuse; for why should we consider the conduct of the wandering inhabitant of the desert so execrable who by oppression makes slaves of Christians, and appropriate their property to his own use, when we do the same by Africans. Nay, when we consider that the Mahometan acts thus by the sanctions, and under the influence of finatical delusion; being taught to regard a Christian as the enemy of his prophet's doctrines he appears to have better ground for his conduct, than the Christian professor, whose only motive in making Slaves of Africans, is, gain. And surely the Mahometan is more Christian in his practice, than the Christian professors, who deal in slaves. For though the Arab who sometimes risks his life in making a Christian his slave, knows that if he be ransomed it will be great gain, yet if his slave will profess himself converted to the true faith (for so he calls his belief) and will become a Mahometan, the bands of Slavery are broken and from the condition of a slave, the new convert is raised to equality with his Master, and is entitled to all the privileges of a native Arab. But the Christian purchases a slave, intending to reap the fruit of his labour, and should he become a convert to the true Faith, his conversion avails him nothing here, his master beholds him only as his slave, therefore his shackles remain, and his bands bind him with the same degree of severity.

Reader, whoever thou art, and whatever may be thy profession, and practice I do not desire to offend thee. I am pursuaded that I state the truth; and I am convinced that Truth will prevail over interest, selfishness, and error. I am sensible of an awful reverence for the Gospel of Christ, and earnestly and sincerely desire that the day may arrive when all who pro-

fess His principles shall possess his spirit too, and not be Christians only in name, but "Israelites indeed, in whom there is no guile."

Judah Paddock states in his narrative that while himself and other slaves were on their journey to Mogadore in company with Ahamed their Arabian master and some Arabs, being much fatigued and suffering with thirst, they arrived at the gate of a town, where they waited to receive the usual salutations of the inhabitants; but contrary to their expectation, and contrary to the manner of the Arabs among whom they had hitherto travelled, the people attended to their own particular occupations, and took no notice of them. Finding themselves disappointed they awoke a man who was lying on the ground asleep outside the gate, and asked him for a bowl to drink out of. He rose, and without regarding their request walked into the town; when Ahamed, perceiving they were entirely unheeded, ordered one of the boys in company to go and take one. The boy, after walking some distance, found one, and brought it to them. After they had allayed their thirst, at a well which was near, Ahamed desired them to go on, and would not, according to the usual practice with the Arabs, of replacing a thing whence it was taken, suffer them to return the bowl. A conduct so different excited Judah Paddock's curiosity, and the following conversation took place between him and Ahamed. "Such fellows" said Ahamed, "are not fit to live." Upon Paddock's asking him who they were, "They belong," he said, "to a sect called Foulah, they will not mix with the other inhabitants, but choose to live all together, by themselves, and are so stupid, that if the Emperor of Morocco should march an army to cut off the whole race of them, they would not defend themselves but would die, like fools, as they are." J. P. enquired if they used fire-arms. "No" Ahamed said, "they make no use of them, and if God were pleased to send a Christian ship ashore near them, they would not seize upon the goods, nor upon the men, nor would they buy a slave of any kind." J. P. asked Ahamed if they were numerous. "No," he said, "they are not numerous; but the dwellings you see on the sides of

hills yonder, are theirs and in many other places, are they to be found, and wherever they are, they always keep together by themselves." Finally J. P. asked if they were Mahometans. "Yes" he answered, "they are, or else we would destroy them, they are poor ignorant dogs, and but little better than Christians."

I have inserted this extract to show that among barbarians, as we call these people, there are some who will have no lot or part in what oppression only can make theirs. Remember that faith without works is dead, as the body without the soul; and of what can such Christian professors boast, more than Mohametans? It must be their faith only, and that without works of Charity, and all the other good fruits of Christ's spirit, namely, loving our neighbours; kindness to the poor, undoing the heavy burdens, and letting the oppressed go free.

Does not the state of such Christians appear very like that of Nebuchadnezzar? who after confessing that he believed the spirit of the Holy Gods was in Daniel, did not regard that prophet's counsel? nevertheless this belief was so rooted that he chose him before all the wise men of the kingdom to interpret the dream that troubled him. But this belief was not faith, otherwise he would not have persisted in those evil ways, for which he was driven from the society of men, and made as the beast of the field. Are not these things preserved for our instruction? Is it not fit that we should compare ourselves with both ancient and modern works of righteousness? We have the histories of the holy patriarchs and prophets, and the histories of Christ, and his disciples and martyrs. These things the Chaldeans had not, nor have the Mahometans them at present therefore they cannot be condemned by us. — But as the Rechabites for their strict adherence to the commandment of their fathers, were called in to condemn the Jews. Jer. xxxv. I do not see why the Mahometans will not rise in judgment, against those christians who have not the spirit of Christ and condemn them.

A Friend to Truth.

Read in the General Association, approved, and ordered to be published.—

On motion the house adjourned, to meet at Deep-River Meeting House the 4th second day in the 3rd mo. next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Elijah Coffin Secretary

XII

Deep-River Meeting House, 3rd. mo. 26th. 1821.

The following members, from several of the branches, of the Manumission and Colonization Society of North Carolina, met in General Association, pursuant to adjournment; viz. from

Center Branch
Job Worth
— . —
Absent
Benjamin Swaim
Daniel Worth
Jeremiah Fields
John Hodgson
Moses Swaim
John Beard

Deep River Branch
Robt. Stuart
Stephen Gardner
John Gordon
Elijah Mendenhall
John Stuart
— —
Absent
Joseph Iddings
Richard Mendenhall

New Garden Branch
John Wilson
Elihu Coffin
Thos. Moore
Elijah Coffin
— —
Absent. Vestal Coffin
Benajah Hiatt
Joseph Aydelott
Isaac White.

Reedy-fork Branch, Henry White, Thos. Hunt, Matthew Stanley, Charles C. Moore, and Enoch Macy. Absent, Joseph Paulson. None from Springfield nor Caraway Branch. There being a quorum present, the President took the Chair and the house proceeded to business.

No report from the corresponding Secretary, with regard to his appointment to write to the "American Convention." He is continued and to report.

The Committee on the subject of kidnapping, reported a letter, containing some of the Circumstances relative to the bondage of some people of Colour, alluded to in their appointment: they are continued, and to report.

The committee appointed to review an essay, and report their judgment with respect to the propriety of printing it, reported not complied with, and upon further consideration, the house dismissed the subject and released the committee.

The reference from last Meeting, on the subject of striking out the word "Colonization" from the title of our society was taken up, and after some debate, the question was put, and carried in the affirmative: but on motion of a member in the majority, it was agreed to defer it to next association for reconsideration.

The Committee to attend the branches of Caraway and Springfield reported complied with in part; but John Hodgson not being present, he is continued, and to report, and Job Worth appointed to inform him thereof, and request him to make his report to next association.

The President laid on the table the following Message:

To the General Association, now in Session at Deep-River Meeting house, Guilford County.

Friends,

It is some consolation to find that we have the cause of freedom at heart, and are disposed to relieve the distressed, from the iron grasp of oppression, as far as may be in our power, consistently with prudence, and existing circumstances, to do; and although the prospect appears to be dull, yet I hope we mav evince to impartial observers that our views are laudable, that we wish the great national evil of Slavery to be gradually abolished, and that we may try to promulgate our principles to those with whom we are conversant, without giving just cause of offence to any.

It may be expected that I shall give some account of the state of Society to this association; but I can say very little about it, except that there is a number among us, who wish well to the cause of freedom. If there has been any addition

to the number of members of this Society since last Meeting, I have that yet to learn; perhaps the representatives from the different branches may be able to throw some light upon the subject. One of the Branches, (viz. New Garden) I understand, has been making an experiment in the tuition of coloured children, in school by themselves, which has, by account, continued in operation for three months, and it is to be hoped they will be able to keep up the school, and pave the way for, at least, some of the coloured race to become useful members of the community, and fit for freedom.

We find that it is an object with the states north of the Potomac, to educate those people so as to fit them for freedom; and Slavery seems so limitted in several States that it can hardly be said to exist, and in others it is annihilated. We also find that a spirit of freedom seems to exist in some of the slave states to the west of us; Kentucky has her abolition Society, and it seems that society had zeal enough to send a delegation to the American Convention. Our sister state Tennessee seems lively in the business of Emancipation, and the State of Ohio, although it has no Slaves to liberate, has its humane societies for ameliorating the rigors of Slavery, which have sent delegates to the American Convention: therefore we may count on thirteen States, wherein Slavery has ceased, or hardly operates much, as will more fully appear by referring to the Minutes and digest of the laws of several of the states, received from the sixteenth American Convention. I think we have cause to persevere when we see so large a part of the Union engaged in the same benevolent object, with ourselves, and many of them on account of the southern sections of the Union more than their own. We, who have these objects of distress more immediately under our observation, (if we do not get hardened) might more sensibly feel with the poor degraded beings; at least our sympathy might be awakened, so as to induce us to bear our testimony more fully against Slavery.

As to our funds, I suppose they are much the same as at last Meeting, and of course, in but a low situation. And here I would suggest to your consideration the subject of augmenting

the stock in the Treasury; although the pressure of the times seems to bear heavy on most, if not all of us, yet a small amount from each, would increase it some, and it would be augmenting in proportion to the capital, and it might have a remote bearing on the society in pursuing their objects, and in cementing the bonds of Union.

I further submit to your consideration, whether it might not be expedient for the society, under the direction of the Association, to try for the establishment of a School, (if practicable) in such place as convenience may best suit, for the education of coloured Children. It seems from the experiment made that a considerable part of the expense might, probably, be paid by those who would send. Such an establishment would have a tendency to do away that delicate feeling, or squeamishness, which seems to pervade the white population, with regard to mixing, whites and blacks in the same school.

It appears as if there is something for us to do, if we could luckily hit upon it, and could be actuated by truly benevolent principles. I submit to your consideration whether it would not conduce to the advancement of the cause to correspond more frequently with the societies in the different States, that are established for the amelioration of Slavery, or the abolition of it, especially those established in the slave States, and particularly in Kentucky. With regard to Colonizing there seems to be some difference of opinion, but more, perhaps, with respect to the situation than the subject, some being in favour of Africa, and others, of some of our Western wilds.

Perhaps the Association may think proper to appoint an acting Committee to transact such business as may come before them in the interim of the sessions, and to report their proceedings as occasion may require. No individual cases of kidnapping or holding free people in bondage have come to my knowledge since last session; perhaps the Committee on the subject of kidnapping, may by their report cast some additional light on the subject.

Our national Council have had the subject of the African Slave trade before them at their late Session, and seem desirous

to put a stop to the iniquitous traffic and, it is said, have authorized the President to pursue such measures, in concert with other powers, as he may think proper, with a view effectually to put an end to those illicit proceedings. Something of the kind, has been proposed to our Government by Great Britain. It is understood that Spain, and the King of the Netherlands, have relinquished the trade altogether, and Portugal on the North of the Equinox, but not yet to the South of the Line. Russia and France seem, by accounts, to be friendly to the abolition of the slave trade, so that the prospect is favourable, that Europe will unite in the suppression of it. It seems the question about prohibiting the admission of free persons of colour into the Missouri Territory when it shall be admitted into the Union as a State, is put to rest, as it is not to be admitted except the objectionable clause of the Constitution be expunged.

It is supposed that about fifty coloured people have lately embarked at Norfolk, for the new settlement in Africa, under the auspices of the Colonizing Society, together with agents to superintend the business. It is hoped they will be more fortunate in their laudable endeavours than heretofore.

I am respectfully, &c

3rd mo. 26th 1821. Aaron Coffin.

The Message was read, and John Stuart, Job Worth and Henry White were appointed to consider the several heads thereof, and report such as they thought necessary to be considered by the house.

The house then adjourned for ten minutes.

Met according to adjournment.

The Committee on the President's Message reported, That the House appoint an acting Committee to do such business as may demand their attention in the interim of the sessions of the Association, and that the subject of educating the people of colour be left under their consideration, and that they report their judgment to next Meeting thereon. In which the House concurred, and appointed Stephen Gardner, John Gordon, John

Stuart, Elijah Coffin, John Wilson, and Job Worth said committee, who are to report.

A proposition from New Garden Branch, respecting the education of the people of colour, was refered to the last mentioned Committee.

The Treasurer reported as follows:

"3rd mo. 1821. The State of the Treasury at present is

Dr.	$ cts	Cr.	$ cts
To Cash paid Aaron Coffin	5.00	By a note for $25. and interest thereon to the present date	29.55½
ditto. David Worth..	6.60	By cash in my hands 4th. month last....	29.65
To ditto. my fees.....	.53		
	$12.13		$59.20½
			12.13
		Value of the Treasury	$47.07½

which the house accepted.

The time for holding this Association in future was fixed upon the 4th second day in the 3rd. and 9th. months. The House then adjourned to next in course. —

Elijah Coffin Secretary.

XIII

Deep River Meeting-house, 9th mo. 24th 1821.

The following representatives from several Branches of the Manumission and Colonization society of North Carolina, met, in General Association according to adjournment, viz. from

Center Branch
none
Absent
Job Worth
Benjamin Swaim
Daniel Worth
Jeremiah Fields
John Hodgson
Moses Swaim
John Beard

Springfield Branch
Joseph Hunt
Samuel Hunt
Eleazar Beales
Absent
Henry Hayworth
Joshua Moore
Deep River Branch
John Stuart
Stephen Gardner
Rich. Mendenhall
Absent
John Gordon
Joseph Iddings
Elijah Mendenhall
Caraway Branch
no
account.

New Garden Branch
Benajah Hiatt
Isaac White
John Wilson
Vestal Coffin
Elihu Coffin
Elijah Coffin
Absent
Joseph Aydelott
Reedy fork Branch
none
Absent
Enoch Macy
Henry White
Moses Mendenhall
Joseph Paulson
George Rayl
Matthew Stanley.

There not being a quorum, and the President absent, John Stuart was appointed to preside, pro tem. and the members present concluded to proceed to business and submit their transactions to next Meeting.

No report from the Corresponding Secretary with regard to his appointment to write to the American Convention, he was continued and to report.

The reference from last Meeting on the subject of striking out the word "Colonization" from the title of our society, was refered to next Meeting.

No report from John Hodgson, with regard to his appointment to attend Caraway Branch, he is continued and Stephen Gardner appointed to inform him that he is expected to render a report to next meeting.

The Acting Committee made the following report "That taking the subject of educating the people of Colour under consideration, they think proper to propose that the General Association make such addition to the fund already on hand, as it may think proper, and appropriate the interest thereof to the

exclusive purpose of educating the people of Colour; that said fund be still increased as the Association gains ability, and that the number of pupils be increased in proportion to the increase of interest."

"The Committee also submit to the Association a proposition for continuing the service of the Representatives of the Branches two years instead of one."

"The Committee further propose that the following Articles be annexed to the Rules of Order for the House; viz.

"Article 14. Any question shall be decided by yeas and nays, when any two members require it, and any member may enter his dissent on the journal.

"Article 15. In all cases of ballot by the house the President shall vote; in other cases he shall not vote except they be equally divided, he then shall give the casting vote.

"Article 16. No member shall depart the services of the house without leave.

"Article 17. When a question is before the house, no motion shall be received, unless to adjourn, to amend it, to postpone it, to commit it, or for the previous question; which several motions shall have precedence in the order they stand.

"Article 18. A motion for postponement or commitment, until it is decided, shall preclude all amendment of the main question.

"Article 19. When a question has been decided it shall be in order, once only, for any member of the majority to move the reconsideration thereof."

In which report the house concured.

Resolved that the late Secretary be authorized to call on the Treasurer for renumeration for his past services.

A proposition from New Garden Branch for the circulating among the Branches, of all the information received from other Societies in the United States which have been instituted for the abolition of Slavery, with a desire for an increase of correspondence, was concured in by the house.

A motion was made for appointing an additional counsel to the Corresponding Secretary, which was refered to next Meeting.

The House concluded, on motion, to postpone electing Officers until next Meeting; it was therefore

Resolved: That the Officers appointed last year be continued in office until next Meeting.

The House then adjourned to meet at Deep River Meeting-house the 4th second-day in the 3rd month, 1822, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Elijah Coffin Secretary

XIV

Deep River Meeting House, 1st. mo. 1st. 1822.

At a General Association of the Manumission and Colonization Society of North Carolina convened by the call of the President, the following Representatives of the Several Branches appeared and took their seats, viz.

From Center
Job Worth
John Hodgson
Absent
Benjamin Swaim
Daniel Worth
Jeremiah Fields
Moses Swaim
John Beard,

From Deep River
John Stuart
John Gordon
Rich[d]. Mendenhall
Elijah Mendenhall
Absent
Stephen Gardner
Joseph Iddings

New Garden
Joseph Aydlett
Isaac White
Vestal Coffin
Elijah Coffin
Absent
Benajah Hiatt
John Wilson
Elihu Coffin

Spring field
Henry Hayworth
Joseph Hunt
Joshua Moore
Absent
Eleazar Beales
Samuel Hunt

From Caraway
Eli Powell, (no account of any other Representatives) from Caraway Branch)

From Reedy Fork
Enoch Macy, Thos. C. Moore Joseph Paulson, Matthew Stanley Absent, Henry White George Rayl, & Moses Mendenhall

There being a quorum, the President took the Chair and the House proceeded to business.

The house agreed to accept the journal of last Meeting.

Elihu Coffin, from New Garden, appeared and took his seat.

The Corresponding Secretary reported that he had complied with his appointment, by writing to the corresponding Secretary of the American Convention. He then produced the essay which he had forwarded which was read to satisfaction. He also informed that compensation had never been made to the person who brought some pamphlets, for this society from Philadelphia, he was therefore appointed to inquire into the charge, and authorized to call on the Treasurer for money to settle it, and also for renumeration for such postage as he may have expended in his official capacity, and report.

The reference from last Meeting on the subject of striking out the word "Colonization" from the title of our society was brought before the house. The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole (John Stuart in the Chair) for the discussion of the subject. After some debate, the Committee rose, and reported that the matter had been discussed, and the question taken, and decided in favour of retaining the word in our title, in which the house concured.

John Hodgson reported that it had not been in his power to attend to his appointment, he was continued and Eli Powell added, who are to report.

A proposition was made for increasing the fund which was refered to the next Meeting. The Secretary was then directed to request the Branches, to draught each a plan for said increase, which in its judgment may be best, and forward it to next Meeting.

On motion the house ordered the alteration to be made the Constitution, as proposed by the Acting committee, viz. for continuing the service of the Representatives of the Branches two years instead of one. On motion the house also concured in striking out the word "annually" from the latter part of the 2nd Article of the Constitution and inserting "once in two years" in its place.

An Election then ensued, when Aaron Coffin was duly elected President, Elijah Coffin, Secretary, and Nathan Mendenhall, Treasurer.

The house then adjourned to meet according to last adjournment.

The house refered appointing an additional counsel to next Meeting.

Elijah Coffin Secretary.

XV

Deep River Meeting House, 3rd mo. 25th 1822.

John Hodgson from Center Branch, John Gordon from Deep River, and Isaac White and Elijah Coffin met in General Association, according to adjournment.

In consideration of the attendance of so few of the representatives, those present concluded to adjourn to next in course. — Adjourned.

Elijah Coffin Secretary

XVI

Deep River, 9th mo. 27th. 1822.

Several Representatives met in General Association, but there not being a quorum, they adjourned. —

Elijah Coffin — Sec'y

* * * * *

Deep River Meeting House, 12th mo. 1st 1823.

Pursuant to a request of the President, the following members and Representatives of the Manumission and Colonization Society of N°. Carolina met in General Association: viz.

From Deep River

Joshua Johnson
Joshua Chadwick
Nathan Mendenhall
Richard Mendenhall
Elijah Mendenhall
John Gordon
Zacharias Coffin
John Stuart
Aaron Coffin

From New Garden
Josiah Unthank
Isaac White
John Wilson
Thos. Moore
Howland Swain
Mordecai Hiatt
Stanton White
Elijah Coffin

From Reedy Fork
Henry White
Wm Rayl
Enock Macy
Matthew Stanley
George Rayl
—— . ——
From Caraway
—— . ——
Phineas Nixon jr.
James Hodgson

On motion Aaron Coffin was appointed President and Elijah Coffin Secretary, each for the time present, and, there being a quorum, the house proceeded to business.

The journal of the last meeting not being present the unfinished business was referred.

The Treasurer made the following report: — which the House accepted. —

"The Amount of the value in this department, as per statement forwarded to the Association 25th of 3rd mo. 1822 was $43.64½
7th of 4th mo. same year, $1.50 was received as interest 1.50
At or near the same time do. do. ..... .75

$40 of this sum has been on interest since the 23rd of 4th mo. same year, amounting to $3.80 up to the 23rd of last month. 3.80 $45.89½

1st of 12th mo. 1823. Present value of the Treasury, E. E..... $49.69½

It was then suggested, that, if this Society continue, it will be necessary to have a fund, which, on taking the question, was found to be the opinion of the majority. It was also concluded, by vote, that in case a fund be raised, the principal shall lie untouched, and the interest only, be used in promoting the objects of the Society. Also, that the present stock, shall lie, as heretofore, at the disposal of the Association.

A motion was then made to consider the propriety of dissolving — and after some debate, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved: — That as a motion has been made to consider the propriety of dissolving this Society, that the Branches be each particularly requested, through the medium of the extracts, to forward a constitutional delegation to a General Association to be held at Deep River the 2nd second day in the 2nd mo. 1824; in order that the propriety of dissolving may be considered, and that it may be determined what shall be done with the fund already on hand, in case a dissolution should take place.

On motion a proposition for remunerating the Secretary for his past services, was referred to next meeting.

The house then adjourned to meet at the forementioned time and place.

Elijah Coffin Secretary

XVII

Deep River, 2nd mo. 9th 1824

The following Representatives of several of the branches of the Manumission and Colonization society of No. Carolina, met in General Association according to adjournment; viz.

From Center
- Benjamin Swaim
- John Newman
- John Hodson

From Deep River
- John Gordon
- John Stuart
- Elijah Mendenhall
- Robt. Stuart
- Jonathan Gardner
- Benjamin Beeson
- Aaron Coffin

From New Garden
- Josiah Unthank
- Vestal Coffin
- Elijah Coffin

Reedy Fork
- Enoch Macy
- Thos. Hunt
- Henry White

There being a quorum present Aaron Coffin was appointed President, and Elijah Coffin Secretary, each pro. tem. and the house proceeded to business.

The President produced a written Address, which was read to satisfaction, and ordered to lie lie on the table for the present.

Richard Mendenhall then appeared and took his seat.

On motion Jeremiah Hubbard, being present, was admitted a transient member.

The unfinished business of the preceding meetings was then taken up, when

The Corresponding Secretary reported that he had not complied with his appointment, of the 1st mo. 1822: he was, therefore continued.

Jonathan Parker from Center, then appeared and took his seat.

John Hodgin reported that he had partially complied with his appointment, of the 30th of 10th mo. 1820; and the house released him from any further service therein.

The subject of dissolving, as referred to in a resolution adopted at last meeting, was taken up, and the house, resolving itself into a committee of the whole, with John Newman in the chair, proceeded to consider it. After considerable debate in the committee, the question was called for, and decided by yeas & nays as follows: for a dissolution 11, against it 7.

The committee then rose, and reported to the house accordingly; but the house not being willing to concur in it at present, appointed Aaron Coffin, Rich.[d] Mendenhall, Elijah Coffin, Benjamin Swaim, and John Stuart, to investigate the subject some further; and if it shall be their opinion that it is best for this Society to dissolve, to report their opinion to next meeting in what manner the funds and books now belonging thereto, may be disposed of most properly.

On motion the Secretary was directed to enter the President's Address on record.

On motion the Secretary was authorized to draw on the Treasurer for five dollars, for remuneration for his past services.

The house then adjourned to meet at Deep-River the 3rd second-day, in the 4th mo. next, at 11 o'clock A. M.

——— . ——— Elijah Coffin secretary

The President's address is as follows:

To the Manumission and Colonization Society of No. Carolina, held at Deep-River meeting house, in Guilford county, the 9th of the 2nd mo. 1824.

It is with much diffidence that I attempt to address you at this time, on the subject of oppression, on the abject and degraded situation of the African race, in this our land of boasted freedom, a cause which we have, for upwards of seven years been engaged in, and held forth to the community the impropriety of, as a Society. It is hoped, that at this time, there are none of the members, who are not clearly satisfied, in their own minds, of the evils of Slavery, and who are not willing to bear their testimony against the inhuman practice, if so, the question will naturally arise, in what manner are we to proceed to effect any useful purpose? This may cause a variety of ideas in the minds of the members, at least, amongst those who have the cause at heart. The little progress that we have made, may discourage some; not considering the justice of the cause a sufficient excitement, to persevere, without immediate effects resulting in favour of our efforts; while others think that they ought not to be weary in well doing; that however dull the prospect may appear, they consider that justice demands an amelioration, at least, of this species of tyranny in our land; and as improvements in morality, must, like other improvements be gradual; and that it is the duty of every man to discountenance vice; and that it may be done to better purpose in a social than in a private capacity, they of course, would wish for the society to continue, and be more vigilant and more zealous in its efforts; considering it a duty incumbent to do what it can, to promote justice and the principles of humanity in its day and time, and leave the event. This accords with my feelings, although I feel myself as nothing in the scale; yet if we do what we can, and what we think is right, there is nothing more required; it may, in due time, have the desired effect; — but if not, we shall be clear; we find it exemplified in the movements of the committee for the Abolition of Slavery, or the trade to Africa: — they were organized in England in the year 1787, they pursued their

objects indefatigably for twenty years, through its vicissitudes, before it was effected. It appears that the society never lost sight of the object, though obstructed and retarded in their movements, by selfish and avaricious men, and lost their bill in Parliament, and let the subject lie without renewal for four years; yet when it was revived it progressed with redoubled vigour; the Parliament had seen further into the iniquity of oppression, and the people more generally interested themselves in the cause. With such zeal was the matter prosecuted, that, according to Clarkson's account, there were in Great Britain no less than three hundred thousand persons who had abandoned the use of sugar, considering it to come through the medium of oppression. The trade to Africa for slaves being abolished by Britain and America and it being considered by the two nations, (or, at least, by a large majority of them) that the holding of black people in Slavery is a sin, a moral evil, extremely unjust, contrary to sound policy, and, with us, contrary to the republican principle; — under such a view of things let us ask the question, whether we ought to relax our endeavours, or whether we ought to pursue such measures as may ultimately be the most likely to have the desired effect? With me there is no hesitation; I think we ought to keep it alive, at any rate, and be ready, as a body, to forward, as occasion may serve, so laudable an undertaking. For us to retrograde now, would rather degrade us in the estimation of the people who have been viewing our movements. It would be well perhaps to take a retrospective view of what we have done. At an early period we addressed most of the different denominations of religious professors, in a spirited manner, and sent a deputation to each society. In addition to that we sent on a memorial to our national Legislature. We have corresponded, by our Secretary, with similar institutions; we have received from abroad, tracts, essays, Books, &c. and it appears those Societies are desirous to keep up a correspondence with us. Under this state of things it appears to me that to dissolve now, would destroy the confidence that has been placed in us, and mar the progress of a righteous cause, a cause, that in other parts of the union seems

to be gaining ground. We find that in Tennessee they are moving on with a firm step, and steadily pursuing their object; that they have lately received six or seven additional branch Societies into their association, that they have upwards of five hundred members; that they are addressing the different religious Societies, their own, and the national Legislatures. The Abolition Society of Kentucky it appears was organized in the year 1808; they seem to be progressing; about a year ago they passed a resolve to address the several Societies in the United States, that were engaged in the same laudable pursuit. The address seems pertinently adapted to the occasion. It seems that in some of the States where Slavery does not prevail, they have formed Societies in favour of the oppressed. There appears to be one organized in Massachusetts for that purpose, lately; and they appear willing to assist the Colonization Society if their views should be the final emancipation of Slaves.

It is said that there are thirteen non-slaveholding States in the Union; if so, we have ground to hope that justice will eventually prevail throughout the United States. It is also said that the new Governments of Spanish America have abolished Slavery, and that the British Parliament have taken up a resolution, which goes to ameliorate Slavery in their Islands, and for it finally to run out. If these accounts should prove correct, it augurs well for the cause of freedom; — But if they are premature, let us not be weary in well doing, nor shrink from the duty of our Station as a Society; but rather adopt the language of Charles J. Fox; he said he had "occupied a seat in Parliament between thirty and forty years, that if he could be instrumental in carrying the point (the Abolition) he should think his life well spent, and retire quite satisfied." Wilberforce said he had embarked in a cause, he never would abandon, the consciousness of the justice of his cause, would carry him through, tho' alone. But Thomas Clarkson stands preëminent in the labours of that day. He informs us, he had to correspond, for seven years, with four hundred persons, with his own hand, besides other writing to a large amount, on behalf of the cause; and that during that time, he travelled upwards of thirty five

thousand miles, in search of evidence. Others might be mentioned, but I brought these forward, to show the firmness of those heroes in the cause; that we might contrast them with our own standing, and see whether we feel any thing in reality, for the oppressed part of the human race, whether we think any thing a duty, that is not attended with pecuniary advantage; or why, if we consider the promotion of benevolence a duty, we dont attend to our stated meetings, for the discussion of those subjects, when convenient to us!

We are provided with books to keep our Records in, a small amount of fund at interest; altho' an augmentation is desirable, yet if not attainable at this time, it may, perhaps, tend to satisfaction for the society to continue. But if it is thought best by a majority to dissolve, I expect there will arise a new Society (like the story of the Phoenix) out of the ashes of the old.

I am, respectfully, &c.

2nd mo. 8th 1824. Aaron Coffin

XVIII

April the 19th 1824

A number of the delegates from the Several Branches of the Manumission Society met at Deep River meeting house agreeably to adjournment, but not being a full quorum present, the members after some deliberation agreed to proceed to business, & submit their proceedings to next association for their sanction. Aaron Coffin was then appointed President pro tempore & Phineas Nixon Jur, Secretary. —

The President Laid a letter before the house which he had received from Thomas Shipley of Philadelphia, Secretary to the American Convention, Stating that their Society had sent on a number of pamphlets, tracts &c, to this Society on the subject of Slavery, with directions for them to be deposited in public libraries, the Books were received by the society some time previous to their receiving the letter, — The house referred the subject of the disposal of them, — Richard Mendenhall reports that agreably to a former appointment, he has confered with the person who brought forward for this society a number of

books, & that he made no charge for his services. The committee appointed at last meeting to revise the Constitution of this Society, reported an essay of a constitution as amended, which after some alterations was agreed to by the members present. — Some propositions resolves &c were received from Caraway branch. Although out of due season were refered to next meeting for Consideration. — A committee was then appointed to inform the Several branches the time of the next meeting of the association consisting of, Benjamin Swaim, Aaron Coffin, Richard Mendenhall, Robert Stuart, John Hodson, & Eli Powell. —

And the meeting adjourned to meet at this place on the first second day in the sixth month next at 11 o'clock A. M.

(Phineas Nixon Jur Secretary

XIX

June the 7th 1824

Delegates from the Branches met at Deep River meeting House in General Association Viz:

Deep River
John Gorden
Robert Stuart
Jonathan Gardner
Benjn Beeson
Aaron Coffin
Rich'd Mendenhall
John Stuart

Center
Benjamin Swaim
Nathan Dieks
William Dennis
Jonathan Parker
Libni Barnard

Caraway
John Stocker
Thomas Fentriss

Springfield
Henry Hayworth
Joshua Moore

Newgarden
Thomas Moore

Manlove Wheeler, Isaac Hiett
John Baldwin Jnr, William Beard
James Brown, and Jeremiah Hubbard

were admitted transient members. There being a quorum present Aaron Coffin was appointed President pro tempore & Jeremiah Hubbard Secretary, & the house proceeded to Business —

The Journal of last meeting being read, was accepted — A Report was made on behalf of the committee appointed at last meeting to visit the branch Meetings, that they had complied with the appointment.

The President brought forward an address containing some remarks on the State of our institution together with sundry other observations, which was approved, & ordered to be recorded. ——

The committee appointed to amend the constitution reported one as amended, and the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole. Benj'n Swaim in the chair, the committee arose & reported the constitution as amended, which the house concurred ——

on motion it was resolved that a committee be appointed to meet the north Carolina Abolition Society at newbury in next Month & try to effect a Junction of their Society & ours under one constitution so as to form but one Society. —

a committee consisting of John Stuart Jonathan Parker Tho's Moore John Gorden Aaron Coffin & Benjamin Swaim were appointed for that purpose & to report to next meeting. —

On motion it was resolved, that the further consideration of T. Shipley's letter &c, be refered to next meeting —

The Election of officers was postponed to next Meeting

And the house adjourned to meet at this place on the 2nd day after the 3rd 7th day in the 7th month next.

Jeremiah Hubbard Secy

XX

July the 19th 1824

Deep River meeting house, A few of the members convened but there not being a quorum present, the Meeting adjourned to meet at the time of the next meeting in course at this place which will be on the fourth second day in the 9th month next, —

Jeremiah Hubbard secretary

To the Manumission Society of North Carolina held at Deep River Meeting house the 7th of the 6th month 1824. Viewing

the circumstances & the signs of the times throughout what is called Christendom, I take the liberty to address you on the subject of our present meeting, and to call your attention to the present situation of our Society: which is I am sorry to observe not the most agreable, but by the accounts we receive from abroad, from Similar Institutions — under the present Auspicious appearance, we have ground to hope, that benevolence & Philanthropy have taken up their line of march, not only in the United states, but also abroad among other Nations, — and the probability is, they will not relinquish their object until freedom shall finally triumph over oppression, as respects Involuntary Slavery. — the two last numbers of the Genius of Universal emancipation are replete with information worthy of our attention, on the subject and progress of freedom, — in different parts of the world, which seems to forbode well to the cause, It seems the omens are propitious. — I am much gratified to find that the minds of the people (a majority at least) are opposed to Slavery, & wish that freedom may eventually silence oppression, and reign triumphant. It is stated that the Ohio Legislature have passed resolutions against Slavery, Recommending a plan for gradually abolishing the practice in the United States, and directed the Governor to furnish a copy of said resolutions, to each Governor of the several States, requesting them severally to lay the same before their respective Legislatures, and also to furnish copies to their members of Congress, requesting them to use their endeavors to promote the cause of freedom. — this seems to be the first general call from any Legislature in the United States, may it so far have the desired effect, as to bring the matter in due time before the Legislatures of the Slave holding States. — It is said resolutions were introduced and passed Unanimously in the British parliament (one branch at least) in course of last year, having for their object the amelioration of the Slave population in their dominions, so as for it to run out entirely, but for the present to fit them for freedom, by a better education. — Since that time the King has given his Sanction to the measure, and promised to furnish Parliament the necessary Information. Their

object is that children of colored parents, slaves as well as others, Shall in future be born free. — There are men in Parliament who speak boldly in the cause of freedom, with the eloquence of a Cicero, and have pledged themselves never to quit their object (but with their lives) until freedom is established in the British Colonies. — It would far exceed the limits of this address, were I to extract all the information that has come out within three months. — which each member may obtain by reading those publications himself, and I wish that members would more generally subscribe for the paper alluded to. — However I shall mention some of the most prominent remarks. It appears that a new Star has arisen in the western parts of Pennsylvania which bids fair to be useful, the title is the western Abolition Society, they are to hold their meetings at the time of their county Courts at the Court House, in Washington County. this make three Societies of the kind in that State. — Illinois it is said have rejected the attempt to call a convention for the admission of Slavery in that State. — A bright constellation is said to have appeared among them, consisting of four or five extensive associations for the prevention of Slavery, one of which is entituled the friends of humanity, and made up of representatives from different religious congregations, and bids fair to become a useful institution. — proposals for printing a book by Subscription in Kentucky against the evils of Slavery, by a presbyterian minister, are also extant, fifty cents to Subscribers. — It is said that Virginia is arousing from her Slumber, & that the foundation is laid in the eastern part of that State, for a very respectable Abolition Society and that the Spirit of emancipation is looking up in the district of Columbia, and it is anticipated that a society on the same principles will ere long be organized there.

The number of branches of the Manumission Society in Tennessee amount to twenty, and Several New Branches are expected to be organized soon, the number of members are nearly seven hundred, and a large number of the Citizens are friendly to the cause. — may success attend their efforts. It appears that a number of proposals have been issued for print-

ing papers of late, wherein Universal Emancipation has found the way into the prospectus, and a part of their columns devoted to that subject, so that we may see how the current sets. It is said that South Carolina has prohibited Slaves being introduced into the State from abroad, or from any State north of Virginia, under the penalty of a thousand dollars, and the Slaves forfeited to the state. But if true I don't know as that is any thing in favor of freedom. — But if they get to Legislating upon Slavery, If it once begins to run, it is among the possible cases, that it may run out before it ceases. — South Carolina is comparatively a small State, but it appears they hold 258,478 Slaves a large proportion of human beings to be held (by injustice) in that degraded situation by one small State. — Among other communications Lundy has published the following, "That the North Carolina Manumission & Colonization Society are about to Remodel their constitution, so as to become a manumission Society, which he thought would be for the better," I accord with the Idea. — But while I rejoice at the rapid march of freedom, & that the public mind is more enlightened, & ready to subscribe to the Justice of the cause we are embarked in; — I have to regret that something like a division may be discovered among us, which is a pity, as we all have professedly the same object in view, the gradual Emancipation of the Slave population;!! A house divided against itself cannot Stand. We have received some valuable tracts from abroad. Those communications are not yet answered. — I wish the Society Steadily to persevere, & not desert the cause before we have done Justice to Benefactors. — I also think the title ought to be in future, the Manumission Society of North Carolina. If that part of the title is retained, I should not be so tenacious of the rest, but think the old Society ought to be kept up, we are now prepared to go on, & have the documents to Shew since (1816) we have a book provided to keep our records in, & a small fund on hand, which will not be deranged, if the old Society is kept up, and may prevent any jar or contradiction, between past and future correspondence. — It appears that two Societies in the same Naborhood, with the same views, and

different names, would tend to destroy the views of each institution, and retard the progress of both, — when if they were United together in one Society, they might be more respectable at least abroad, & probably do more good, & benefit the cause more in their respective circles than to be separated. — I hope there will no difficulty arise but that we may unite under one head, as we all profess to be aiming at one & the same thing, Vizt Manumission. But a difficulty may arise, the committee from the other society may not consider themselves manumission members, or a part of the association. But I hope we may meet in a spirit of accommodation, if we do, I hope all obstacles will be surmounted. — I hope whether we continue or not, a committee may be appointed to answer such communications as may demand it, and wind up if we do dissolve, with some degree of honor. — But I hope we may wave all minor considerations, and try to unite heartily in the cause, and endeavor to promote concord & union among ourselves, & evince to candid observers that we are actuated in a social, as well as private capacity, by benevolent principles, and that our primary object as a Society, is the relief of oppressed humanity. — I am Respectfully &c

Aaron Coffin

XXI

Deep River Meeting House September the 27th 1824

The followin Delegates convened in General Association Agreably to adjournment. Vizt from Deep River Branch

Trotters Creek
  Alfred Hadley
Newgarden
  Thomas Moore
Caraway
  Eli Powell
Deep Creek
  Joseph Carter
  William Dobbins
Cane Creek
  Solomon Allen
  William Weisner

Aaron Coffin
Rich'd Mendenhall
Robert Stuart
James Pitts
David Sanders
Jonathan Gardner
John Stuart
Jeremiah Hubbard

There being a Quorum present, Aaron Coffin was called to Chair and John Stuart appointed Secretary pro tempore. And the house proceeded to business. the three new branches Deep Creek, Cane Creek & Trotters Creek were admitted members of the Association. — The President presented an address which was read, and ordered to be recorded, & Thomas Moore at his request was directed to furnish the Editor of the Genius of Universal Emancipation with a copy, — On motion a balloting committee was appointed, Richard Mendenhall & Jeremiah Hubbard were the committee. The house then proceeded to elect officers, when it appeared from the Balloting that Richard Mendenhall was duly elected President, Aaron Coffin Secretary, & Nathan Mendenhall Treasurer, — On motion the President Elect, & Secretary took their seats, — Aaron Coffin on behalf of the committee, to meet the Abolition Society at Newbury reported that the Society was not agreed to our proposed Constitution, but were willing to have a joint committee raised by the two Societies, and appointed a competent number on their part, to Join with the same number appointed by us, to confer together, & endeavor to unite the two Societies under one constitution. — which the house concurred, and appointed John Stuart, Aaron Coffin, David Sanders, Richard Mendenhall, & Jeremiah Hubbard, a committee to unite as a Joint committee with their committee, & try to accommode matters to mutual satisfaction of both Societies, and report to next meeting, — The subject of Thomas Shipleys Letter dated Philadelphia 15th 3 month 1823 was taken up, and the Directions therein contained were attended to, & those members who may have them in possession are directed to bring them forward to next meeting. —

The subject of addressing the National Government, & our State Legislature was discussed & passed in the affirmative without a division. — Aaron Coffin, Alfred Hadley, Jeremiah Hubbard, Richard Mendenhall, John Stuart, & Solomon Allen were appointed a committee to prepare essays, and produce them to next meeting. —

On motion it was recommended to the several Branches to incourage subscriptions for Benjamin Lundy's paper the genius of Universal Emancipation, —

The Secretary is Authorized to draw on the Treasurer for Money to purchase paper for the Use of the Society. — And the Meeting adjourned to meet at this place on the 3rd Seventh day in next Month at 11 o'clock A. M.

Aaron Coffin Secretary

XXII

To the manumission Society of North Carolina, Convened in General Association at Deep River Meeting House the 27th of the 9th month 1824

Fellow members it is with diffidence I attempt to address you on the subject which some years ago attracted us to one & the same point, and stimulated us, to form a society. It was the subject of Slavery, which oppressed a large portion of our country, although bound together by a band of union, and what was called free institutions of Government, under one general head, yet oppression was Stalking over our part of the Country, & ruling over a part of the human family, with the Iron rod of tyranny, — And considering this to be an inconsistency, or rather a contradiction in terms, with the principles, & even the letter of our Institutions, The members Associated together, with a view to bear their testimony in a Society Capacity against Involuntary Slavery, — believing it might have a more extensive, & a more beneficial effect, than in a private capacity only, and that it was a duty incumbent on every rational being to contribute as way might open to the happiness & welfare of the human family, not wishing in the mean time to invade the rights of those who were possessed of such property, agreably to laws of the States under which they lived. — But as we were satisfied the practice was wrong, we wished to hold forth our Ideas on the subject, If happily we could call the public attention to the question, and in some measure promote a different mode of thinking among those who were in favor of Slavery; considering that the public mind must give the desired Success,

or retard the operation of such benevolent institutions. — We have been organized nearly nine years, & the question might be asked, what have we done, or what good have we done? — I can answer though we have not directly seen the good effects resulting from our efforts, yet indirectly there has much been done: The subject has claimed the attention of many Slaveholders as well as others who acknowledge the practice to be wrong, that the principle is unjust, and that if it could be abolished with safety they would acquiesce in it. — This is something, it is an additional step, it seems to be Auspicious, & rather a favorable omen or presage of the Ultimate success of freedom. — The colonization Society was organized not long after we were, that Society have by their movements & publications excited the attention and curiosity of the People generally, they have done much towards arousing the people from their stupor, to exercise their own powers, & to think for themselves, but notwithstanding their plan & ours are not quite the same, yet they have done something towards promoting the cause of freedom, & we wish them Success, the probability of success in colonizing on the african coast we must leave to future experiments & turn our attention to another opening which presents itself and may likely have a more beneficial effect. — it is said that President Boyer on the part of the Republic of Hayti has offered to take any number of colored People the United States may think proper to send, and to pay a considerable part of the expense of transporting them himself, he has also sent on an agent with means to pay the passage of a large number entirely and that there is one hundred already embarked, or agreed for their passage, it is also Stated that such as may think proper to remove to that Government, Shall be exempt from taxation for one year, & be assisted in their ocupations, that they shall be provided with means of subsistance until they can provide their own sustenance. & not be restricted in their religion, and be entituled to the priviledge of Citizenship. — what more could be asked,? — But it seems the Colonization Society rejected the proposal, as not consistent with their plan of sending missionaries to Africa, when this

was known, the people of New York & Philadelphia organized large Independent Societies for promoting the removal of the colored people to Hayti. The free colored people have also formed Societies to assist in the cause, and the probability is, that a considerable number of colored people from the northern & middle States will remove. — this seems like doing something to the purpose. —It may have some effect in the southern districts — It is stated that one large Slave holder said he would if the plan Succeeded, send his Slaves there as quick as possible. — If even one man should free his own and send them to a free Government, it would speak loud, & have great Influence, — I think it is Stated that one free colored man went over to Hayti to see for himself, & that he was received in a very friendly manner with a promise from the President of assistance for ten families until they could help themselves, which offer he accepted and has returned with a view of removing with the stipulated number of families. — But as it is a Government of blacks & the offers have been so generous, some that are unfriendly to emancipation have objected to it on a supposition (as they pretend) that it arises from a principle of selfishness, or aggrandizement, as if "no good thing could come out of Nazareth." But they have been established under the title of a republic, I suppose about nineteen years, and it is thought upon as firm a basis, as most of the European Governments, and as likely to support their Independance, as any of the other powers. — In addition to this, it is said they wish to increase their commercial Intercourse with the United States, that for the last year, the trade amounted to upwards of 3 :600 :000$ — no inconsiderable sum. — It is said the President may be ranked among the first characters of the age, that he interests himself in the welfare of his colored brethren upon Philanthropic principles, that he keeps up a literary correspondence with some of the first characters in different parts of the United States, and among the rest that he takes Lundy's paper (the Genius of Universal emancipation) admitting those statements to be correct, the truth of which I cannot doubt, That Government bids fair to afford the greatest aid to the friends

of Emancipation in this Country, — of any foreign power, and greatly to facilitate our movements in ridding ourselves of the great evil of Slavery. — The Island of St. Domingo is large, it is Stated to be 450 miles in length, & 150 miles broad, and Sufficiently capacious to support three millions of inhabitants, that the present population is probably about 600 :000, that the southern part is in lattitude of seventeen degrees north; so that it lies between the tropicks, that it is fortified by nature by its surrounding shoals, high mountains &c. that according to the common course of human events it cannot be conquered by any foreign power. — Although from its situation we might suppose it to be excessively hot, yet from the circumstance of it's being surrounded by the ocean, & high mountains in the Island, the heat is corrected & rendered quite temperate, — It is said to be the richest (or capable of producing more) than any other of the Caribbee Islands. — here is an opening for trade, which is already carried on to a considerable extent, where the United States may purchase the produce of the west Indies without contributing to the Gains of oppression, a subject which ought in my opinion to claim our serious attention. — The numerous Abolition Societies for promoting Emancipation as far as I have been able to learn are striving to promote the emigration of blacks to Hayti (that is those who are willing among the colored people to go) in preference to the coast of Africa. — with the single exception of the colonization Society. — And as it is hardly probable that emancipatoin will be effected, or even acceeded to in the Slave States soon, if ever, without removing a considerable number of the colored people, and as the distance is so much less to Hayti than Africa, & more likely to be adopted, I think we ought to stand forth as advocates for the plan of removing them where we are most likely to succeed. — Some may say it is not to be done by Man but when the time comes that they are to be free, it will be brought about by a supernatural power; not considering it was by the avarice, by the covetousness of Men, they were introduced among us, and that we are acting upon the same principle (while we advocate Slavery) of our ancestors who Introduced them, and that their

blood may be required of this generation. — "Cease to do evil, learn to do well." how does this accord with sitting down at ease & leaving the event, when all of us are living more or less upon the gains of oppression. — It is stated that among the ancient Egyptians they had a law to punish a man who had it in his power to relieve another that was assaulted, & did not do it, as severely as the assassin who committed the fact. — Now we have it in our power, by our communications, verbal and otherwise, to shed some light abroad among others — and as it must begin with Individuals to make it a national work, & as it must become a National concern before it can be consummated, I think we ought to persevere in a Society capacity, & endeavour to propagate the spirit of freedom wherever we can possibly have anyinfluence, was it ever known, was it ever before even said, that any free Government held near one fifth of its population in absolute, Involuntary unconditional Slavery, that this is too true we cannot deny. and also that those who are Citizens and are opposed to Slavery are culpable, measurably, as well as others, we are a part of the Government, & contribute to it's support, & are bound to support its laws, & our laws protect the system of Slavery. Therefore those states who do not admit Slavery within their limits, are not excusable, as they are a part of the National Government that uphold the System. — So that to abolish the evil it will be necessary for each State or integral part of the Union to unite in the work, & make a common cause of it for the good of the whole. — Although the prospect has been rather gloomy, and is not the most promising now, yet I understand that the public papers on the north of the Potomac are teeming with dissertations in favor of emancipation, and as we expect it must, if it is ever effected, be a gradual work, we have ground to hope it will eventually succeed, — If the market for Slaves could be abolished the System must die of itself, it would have nothing to subsist upon. —The British Government boasted highly of their free constitution, but at the same time, they tolerated their Colonies abroad to hold Slaves, and notwithstanding they did not allow it at home, they held in their west India Islands to amount of about seven hundred

thousand Slaves, — they were out of sight of their Parliament house, and out of sight of the members, they did not see the horrid spectacle that was exhibited abroad under their sanction. — But in process of time it was brought into their view, there was a few who took up the subject, with a firm determination never to relinquish their object short of the Abolition of the System. Their Rulers have adopted the measure, & one of their articles is, that men shall no longer be considered chattel property — they are progressing on, it is said, & likely to effect their purpose. — Our free Government cannot plead ignorance like the British Legislators. It is said that the dealers in human flesh, bones and sinews, are frequently seen passing Through the streets of Washington by the capitol with their human booty, where the representatives of the United States assemble to Legislate upon the rights of Mankind. where they have exclusive Legislation over a considerable district.!! Do they uphold the system of Slavery where they are sole Rulers? If so, ought they not to be discarded & superceded by men of Republican principles, Men who would act in conformity to the spirit of our free institutions. — hence arises a necessity (and may I not a duty Incumbent enjoined) for every true republican to withhold his suffrage from men who are offering their services to represent them in the State & National Legislatures, & even for the office of President of the United States, who by their principles or conduct evince a disposition to uphold the system of Slavery. I think we ought to be viglent, — and not be weary in well doing. — and that it would be well for this association to consider whether it may not be advisable to send an address to our General assembly, and a memorial to Congress, at their next sessions. It seems to me that political societies, that have a moral object in view, are perhaps as proper sources for such addresses to emanate from, as any other among us, they have an opportunity to view the subject in all its bearings, as well as the Legislatures with out being confined to the Religious creed of any one sect and would in my opinion, be more likely to succeed. — But when we vote in advocates of Slavery to represent us, we feel a consciousness that we are upholding the Sys-

tem, we find the accuser within condemning us, and are unwilling to petition those whom we have deputed, to abolish a System we have been secretly upholding. — But I hope the time past may suffice, & that we may not be afraid to call on our Delegates, our deputies to do our business. —

Some are ready to say it would have no good effect, that it would be like casting pearls before swine, to attempt any such thing, & only draw ill will upon the Society, — & perhaps it might be measurably so, but the probability is, they would read it, and if it was rejected, it might have a good effect, & we should be clear, we should at least publish our testimony against the practice, and it might cause some of them to reflect on the Subject, & subscribe to our opinion, who perhaps had not thought much upon it before. — If only five members of the Legislative body who were influential, were to come into our measures, it might have a very powerful effect, even if the petition was rejected. — I think we ought to press forward with a firm Step, and not be weary of well doing. — The colored population in the Southern States is rapidly multiplying, not only by natural increase, but by the traffic with some of the States north of us. — It is said that Virginia & Maryland, make but very little profit by their Slaves, except by raising them for sale, and selling them like cattle.!! I have a statement before me, for North and south Carolina, which I suppose to be as nearly correct, as can be expected, taken from the late Census which states the white population of South Carolina to be 251:962: and the Slaves to be 251:779 which with the addition of 6:741: free colored people amounts to 258:520 making the colored population 6:558 larger than the white. — And that the white population of North Carolina is 419:200: that the Slaves amount to 205:017 that there is 14:612 colored free people, which added to the number of Slaves in our State, makes an aggregate of 219:629 of colored people in North Carolina which leaves a majority of 199:571 of the white population ove[r] the black in the State. — Now if we add the black people of the two Carolinas together the amount will be 478:179 a very large amount of human beings to be held (the most of them) in a

state of degradation not much above brutes and by civilized people (as we say) and many high professors among them too.!! — here we may at once see the increasing danger, and the necessity of abolishing the market for Slaves, — I have been somewhat lengthy in my observations, with a view of Shewing the state of our Country as near as I have been able to collect it.

From the situation of things among us I think it is time to be up and a doing, and I wish the association to move on and attend to the substance of the matter principally, as for the letter of our regulations of order, it is not so material, I would therefore recommend to the meeting to appoint their officers, and move forward and try to unite as many as wish to associate with us. If some should not be willing to keep with us, who have heretofore been of us, let them withdraw. — Their Ideas may not run counter to ours, if they are not strictly with us, they may not be against us. —

I am respectfully Aaron Coffin

P. S. It is asserted in the papers that Illinois after fully trying their strength, upon the convention question, with a view of admitting Slavery, have rejected it, this is one Struggle more in the cause of freedom which has proved Successful.

A C

XXIII

At a meeting of the General Association of the Manumission Society of North Carolina held at Deep River Meeting house the 16th 10 m° 1824.

The following members from the different branches were present Viz[t].

Deep River branch
- Richard Mendenhall
- Aaron Coffin
- Jeremiah Hubbard
- Jonathan Gardner
- John Gorden
- Abel Coffin
- Robert Stuart
- James Brown
- John Stuart
- Nathan Mendenhall

Caraway
- Phineas Nixon Jur
- John Stocker

Newgarden
John Wilson
Deep Creek none.
Isaac White
Vestal Coffin
Mordecai Hiett
William Stanley Jur
Thomas Moore

Cane Creek
Jesse Henshaw
Benj'n Piggott
Jeremiah Piggott

Trotters Creek
William Hill
Alfred Hadley

Center Branch
None
Springfield none
Reedy fork none

There being a Quorum Present the President took the Chair and the house proceeded to business. —

When Joshua Johnston, Henry Powell, & Joshua Chadwick were admitted transient members The Journal of last meeting being read the house took up the unfinished business. And the committee appointed to meet the abolition Societie's committee, reported an essay of a constitution, as amended, and approved by the Joint committee, which was read & adopted by the house, by a unanimous vote, and the Secretary was directed to transcribe it into the bound book. —

John Stuart & Abel Coffin obtained leave of absence for the remainder of the day.

The Secretary produced two copies of the Constitution as amended, one of which was directed to be sent to Cane Creek, and the other to deep Creek branch. — And he was directed to furnish the other branches, who are represented in this Association, with a copy each, & report to next Meeting. The direction of Thomas Shipley was called up, concerning the disposal of the Books, and a resolution entered into to deposit them among the library Societies. and that the President dispose of them as they may come into his hands, & report accordingly. — Those members who may have the books in possession are directed to hand them to him. —

The Committee appointed to prepare essays of Memorials to Congress, and the General Assembly of this State, produced them, which after being read and considered, were adopted, & signed by the President & Secretary. — and the Secretary was directed to forward the one for Congress on to that body, Either by Romulus M Sanders, or John Long, who are representatives from this State to Congress. Thomas Moore was directed to forward the other, for the General Assembly, to that body, by the Guilford delegation, & report to next meeting. — On Motion the house took up the Subject of establishing additional branch Meetings of this Society, when it was resolved that a committee be appointed to facilitate so desirable an object, Thomas Moore, Isaac White, John Stuart, Richard Mendenhall, Alfred Hadley, William Hill, Benjamin Piggott Jeremiah Piggott, Phineas Nixon Jnr, & Samuel Hill. were appointed for that purpose, and directed to prepare a circular address, suitable to the occasion, Setting forth the views of the society &c, and put it in circulation, for general information of the people. and report to next meeting. And the meeting adjourned to meet the second sixth day in the third month next at this place. at eleven O,Clock A. M. — Aaron Coffin Secretary

The Constitution of the Manumission Society of North Carolina agreably to the late amendment. —

We the delegates appointed to revise and amend the Constitution of the Society of North Carolina, for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery, are of opinion, that at this eventful era, when the attention of Europe & America, are excited by the Sufferings of the African race, that it is incumbent on us to consider whether we are acting up to the principles we profess. — We take the liberty briefly to observe that we adhere to the declaration of (1776) Vizt. That all men are endowed by the Great Creator, with certain Unalienable rights, "That among these are life liberty and the pursuit of happiness." —We think that declaration holds good, without respect to color, and that we ought to do unto others as we would be done by. — That it is the duty of Nations, & states, as well as Individuals, and more especially those who profess to be actuated by the republican

principle, to banish involuntary Slavery from among them, and endeavor to remove this dishonor of the Christian Character from a free people, from a full impression of the truth of these principles, and a wish to bear our testimony against Slavery, as far as our Influence may extend, and to afford our friendly aid to those who may be engaged in the same laudable pursuit. — feeling (as we do) a consciousness of the rectitude of our Intentions. We have a reasonable hope of Ultimate success in this Righteous cause. We therefore on behalf of our constituents, have adopted the following articles as a constitution. ——

Article) This Society shall be designated by the title of the
1st) Manumission Society of North Carolina, for promoting the Gradual Emancipation of Slavery, and for Meliorating the condition of the African race among us.

2nd) This Society shall convene once in each year (or
) oftener if necessary,) which meeting shall be denominated the General Association. —

3rd) This Society shall consist of Such branch meetings
) as may adopt this Constitution, and be represented in the General Association. —

4th) The General Association Shall Elect A President,
) Secretary, and Treasurer by ballot, for the term of two years, — Twelve members shall constitute a quorum, but a smaller number may adjourn from time to time, until a quorum are convened. —

5th) It shall be the duty of the Association when met, to
) transact the business of the Society, and endeavor to promote the objects of this Institution — when money is wanted to defray the necessary expences of the Society, It shall be raised by voluntary donation of the branches. —

6th) Each branch Meeting who may adopt this Constitu-
) tion Shall be entituled to one representative at least, in the General Association. but may send two delegates for every ten members. Each branch shall choose their own officers, and may make their own bye laws, consistent with the Stipulations of this Constitution, each branch Meeting shall convene once in six months, and as much oftener as they may think proper. —

7th) Each Branch Meeting Shall be authorized to choose a board of Managers if they think it necessary. — as well as the General Association, and each branch shall report their proceedings to the Association. —

8th) It shall be the duty of the President to preside at each meeting of the Association, keep order & decorum, & give such Information to the meeting, as he may be in possession of, relative to the affairs of the Society, and recommend such measures as in his opinion may have a tendency to promote the views of this Institution. he shall have power to adjourn, as occasion may require, and may call a special meeting of the Association, at the request of one (or more) of the branches. — In case of absence of the President, the meeting shall appoint one pro tempore.

9th) It shall be the duty of the Secretary, to keep fair records of the proceedings of Each Association, so as to form a regular Journal of the transactions of the Society, he shall be considered a regular member of the Association during his continuance in office. — In case of absence of the Secretary, the meeting shall appoint one pro tempore. —

10th) It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive the money which may be collected for the use of the Society, he shall make regular entries of all money received, or paid out, but shall not pay out any money, without an order from the President, he shall exhibit a true Statement of the funds at each Annual Meeting. —

11th) The reception of Members shall take place at the respective Branch Meetings, and each branch shall keep a record of their members.

12th) In case any member shall violate the principles of this Institution, he may be disowned by the branch meeting unto which he belongs, Subject to appeal to the General Association. —

13th) The General Association shall have power to alter or amend this Constitution when ever two thirds of the branches concur therein. —

This Constitution as amended was ratified in General Association held at Deep River Meeting house the 16th 10th m° 1824 Richard Mendenhall President. Aaron Coffin Secretary

XXIV

At a Meeting of the General Association of the Manumission Society of North Carolina held at Deep River Meeting House in Guilford County the 11th of the 3rd month (March) 1825. — The following Members were returned as delegates from the different branches. — From New garden,—Thomas Moore, Josiah Unthank, Isaac White, Joseph Iddings, John Wilson, Vestal Coffin, Mordecai Hiett, Jediah Landreth. — Deep River,—John Gorden, Robert Stuart, Elijah Mendenhall, John Stuart, William Manlove, Aaron Coffin, Joshua Chadwick, Zimri Stuart, David Saunders, — Center, Hymeneus Mendenhall, Benjamin Swaim, Mosses Swaim, Jonathan Parker, — Caraway Phineas Nixon Jur, Thomas Fentriss, — Reedy Fork,—Enoch Macy, Camm Moore. — Springfield— Alexander Gray, William Unthank, Nathan Hunt, Benjamin Milligan, Joseph Hunt, Henry Haworth, Nathan Hunt Jur, Charles Pope, Allen W Tomlinson, Thomas T Hunt. — Deep Creek—John Pierce, James Adams, Thomas Lundy. — West Field, Joseph V Gregg, Nathan Beals, Jacob Beals, — Trotters Creek, Nathan Piggott, Jonathan Hadley, John Hadley, — Cane Creek, Jesse Henshaw, Benjamin Piggott, Jeremiah Piggott, — James Town, William Haworth, Jesse Davis, Silas H Beeson, Stephen Gardner, Nicholson Millis, Matthew Hitchcock, John Howell, John Millis, Solomon Potter, Jonathan Gardner, Jesse Wheeler, Anthony Beard, Isaac Jones, Wheeler Chadwick, Stephen G Mendenhall, — Sandy Creek, Samuel Hymer, Samuel Clark, Elisha Coffin. — Richland Creek, James C Kersey, George Parsons, James Newman, John Harlen, Jesse Kersey, Thomas Fraizer, Jesse Hodson, Caleb Beals, Aaron Hodson, Enoch Kersey, Robert W. Hodson, John Beals — Emanual Branch—Daniel Sullivan, Thomas B Ives, David Moffet Charles Hoover, — Ebenezer Branch, James Needham, Allen Robbins, Thomas Gosset, James McDorman, William

Fentriss, — Brushy Creek, Elisha P Jones. — Rocky River,— Uharree Thomas Brookshire, Henry Hill, — Newbury, Peter Hunt, Zaccharias Coffin, Joseph Aydelott, James Farrington. — A majority of whom were present, and the house proceeded to business. — There being a number of Members of the manumission Society present, who were not delegates, — On motion, it was resolved, that they be admitted as transient members. The Journal of last meeting being read, — the Secretary Reported that he had furnished the several Branch Meetings with the necessary documents, agreably to his instructions, which report was accepted.

Aaron Coffin & Thomas Moore reported they had complied with their appointment and forwarded on the Memorials, one to Congress, & the other to our State Legislature, which report was accepted. — The Committee appointed to promote additional branch meetings of this Society, and to furnish an address to the People, report complied with and produced a copy of said address, which was read and approved. — On motion, it was resolved that said committee be continued, for the same purpose, with the addition of two members from each branch represented. Vizt, Jonathan Parker, Mosses Swaim, Camm Moore, Enoch Macy, Alexander Gray, Nathan Hunt Jur, John Hutchins, James Adams, Joseph V Gregg, William Marshall, Joseph Stafford John Millis, James C Kersey, Robert W Hodson, James Needham, John Parker, David Mock, David Curry, — Charles Duncan, Hezekiah S Clark, — Joseph Aydelott, James Farrington.— Alexander Thomas, Jacob Idle.— Thomas Fentriss, Joseph Henly, — Thomas Pugh, Benjamin Vestal, — John Allen were accordingly added, to the former committee. consisting of, Thomas Moore, Isaac White, John Stuart, Richard Mendenhall, Alfred Hadley, William Hill, Benjamin Piggott, Jeremiah Piggott, Phineas Nixon Jur, and samuel Hill. who are to report their progress to next meeting. — The President presented an Address which was read, and contained many useful remarks, and was approved by the house, — on which the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the State of Society, Jonathan Parker in the Chair. The

committee of the whole, after discussing the different subjects contained in the Message, agreed to recommend to the House, the expediency of appointing a committee to enquire into the propriety of removing a part of the colored free population among us, to French Guiana. — And to appoint a board of Managers to transact to transact, the business of the Society in the recess of the sittings of the Association, and recommended an address to be prepared, with a view to be forwarded to our next General Assembly, on the subject of Emancipation, and for it to be produced to next meeting of the Association, and also recommended the printing of five hundred copies of the President's Message, to be put in circulation, — and recommended the appointment of a select committee for the purpose of Addressing County Courts & grand Juries on the subject of Slavery, and recommend a Select committee to propose queries to the branches, for their answers,—and the committee rose & reported to the house. — The house concurred the Printing of the President's Message, with an amendment, to print one thousand copies instead of five hundred, and for the money to be drawn out of the Treasury to pay the expence. — The recommendation to appoint a board of managers was concurred, and it was resolved, That a board of managers consisting of nine members be now appointed, — And Richard Mendenhall, Jonathan Parker, William Unthank, Mosses Swaim, Joseph Aydelott, John Gorden, Thomas Moore, Aaron Coffin, and John Howell, were appointed, to transact the business of the Society in the recess of the sittings of the Association, with power to adjourn from time to time as occasion may require, that five of their body when met shall constitute a quorum, and that the board be authorised to fill vacancies if any should take place in their body by a temporary appointment, to continue in force until the next meeting of the Association, — The recomendation to address the Legislature on the Subject of Emancipation was adopted. — and refered to the board of Managers, who are to prepare an address, & produce the next meeting of the Association. — The recommendation respecting addressing County Courts & grand Juries, and concerning queries to the branches,

were refered to the board of managers, — and also the Enquiry about french Guiana was refered to the board, — and the examination of the President's Message was on Motion refered to the board, for correction, (if necessary), before printing. —

The House took up the Subject of amending A clause in the preamble of the constitution, when a motion was made & prevailed to adjourn, & the house adjourned to ten O, clock tomorrow morning. —

March the 12th the members met, and on calling the list, It appeared that fifty seven members, Delegates were present, — And the house took up the Unfinished business of yesterday, Vizt, the amendment of a clause in the preamble of the Constitution, which motion was withdrawn, — A motion was then made by Mosses Swaim to amend the Preamble, by adding the words, — "The principle of," — to be inserted between the words, "against & Slavery." — which amendment was adopted, — The other parts of the constitution was refered to the board of managers, for correction of grammatical errors, with liberty to Insert a clause for promoting emigration. — and to procure the printing of five hundred copies, and distribute them as they may think proper.

A resolution was passed directing the secretary, to recommend to the Several Branches, to furnish the Association at their next meeting, with such sums as they may feel disposed to advance by voluntary donation. —

A committee was appointed consisting of Moses Swaim, John Howell, & Thomas Fentriss, to ascertain the proper sum to be allowed the Secretary for his past Services, Including the balance of the present year, ending on the 27th of September next, — who reported that he be allowed the sum of Eight dollars, for said term, — which the house concured, & directed the President to Issue an an order on the Treasury for the money. —

The Treasurer reported that on the 11th of the 3d month 1825 : there remained in the Treasury the sum of $44.11½ cents which report was accepted by the house. —

An Address from Camm Moore, to this Association was read, & approved and Ordered to be filed in the Secretaries office, and the thanks of the house were voted to the author for said essay. —

An address was presented by the Secretary, which was read & approved, & the Secretary, was directed to forward on a copy to Benj'n Lundy, for publication in the Genius of U' Emancipation. On motion of Mosses Swaim, the thanks of the house were voted to Alexander Gray for the Able address from him, & read yesterday, — Also the thanks of the house were voted to the Citizens of this Naborhood, for their kind attention, & friendly entertainment of the members of the Association during their present Session. — Further the house returned their [thanks] to the President, for his attention, & the able manner, in which he discharged the duties of the chair during the Present meeting. — Mosses Swaim, Benjamin Swaim, Charles Hoover, & Joseph Aydelott, are appointed to attend a branch Meeting of this Society, to be held at Brushy Creek, on the second seventh day in April next. — A resolution passed the House to refund twelve dollars, to Trotters creek Branch which that branch had advanced, for the conveyance of David patterson's colored family to Baltimore, with a view of sending them to Hayti. ordered that said twelve dollars be paid out of the Treasury. —

And the Meeting adjourned to meet at Hopewell Meeting house in Randolph County, on the second friday in September next at 11 O'clock, A. M. —

XXV

Aaron Coffin Secretary

At a meeting of the General Association of the Manumission Society of North Carolina, held at Hopewell Meeting House in Randolph County, (Agreably to adjournment,) the 9th of September 1825, The President called the house to order, when it appeared, there were present 81 delegates from 28 branches Vizt, from Newgarden branch, Thomas Moore, Vestal Coffin, — Deep River Aaron Coffin, Zimri Stuart, Abel Coffin, — Center Jonathan Parker, Mosses Swaim. Joseph Leonard,

William Swaim, Benjamin Swaim, Caraway — Phineas Nixon Jur John Clark, John Henly, — Springfield, Alexander Gray, William Unthank, Henry Haworth, Nathan Hunt, Allen U Tomlinson, Nathan Hunt, Jur, Benjamin Milligan, Joseph Hunt, Mosses Tomlinson, John Wilborn, Phineas Albertson, Seth Mendenhall, Mordecai Mendenhall, Thomas T Hunt, — Deep Creek John Pierce, Joel Adams, Thomas Jester. — West Field, Nathan Beals, Jur, — Trotters Creek, Jonathan Hadley, Alfred Hadley, — Cane Creek—John Stafford Solomon Allen, William Wisner, James Smith. — James Town Stephen Mendenhall, John Millis, Jonathan Gardner, — Sandy Creek, Sam'l Clark, Henry Allison, — Richland Creek, Robert W Hodson, William Kersey, John Beals, Enoch Kersey, Caleb Beals. — Emanuel Branch, William Sullivan, David Mock, David Moffet, Benjamin D Rounsaville. — Ebenezer branch, Thomas Gosset, Jur, Michael Wilson. — Rocky River, Samuel Hoggatt, David Lindley, — Uharree, Samuel Hill, Thomas Brookshire, Henry Hill, Daniel Sullivan, Tho's Tomlinson, Charles Hoover. — Newbury, Zacharias Coffin, Joseph Aydelott. — Maries Creek, Nath'l Newlin, John Newlin, — Tabernacle, Jeremiah Cooper, Thomas Jones, Joseph Hoover, — Southfork Muddy Creek, Christopher Swaim, — New Salem, Jethro Coffin, — Shiloah, Barnet Idle, John Shelly, Joshua Hitchcock. — Union, John Newman, — Hunting Creek, William Talbot, Thomas Johnston, — Prospect, Hezekiah Thomas, John Burton, William Albertson, — Bethel, John Barker, Abraham Hammer, — Dover Charles Pigeon, — It appears from the papers, reports &c, there is eight Branches not at this time represented, in the Association, Vizt, Reedy Fork, Brushy Creek, Hillsborough, Green's Borough, Beans Shoals, Rehoboth, Mount Olivet, & Muses Chapel, — The number of Members belonging to each branch, not being ascertained, the meeting cannot tell, to a certainty, how many members there are belonging to the Manumission Society of North Carolina. It is therefore desired that each branch will, forward the Number of their Members to the next meeting of the Association, — By accounts received from fifteen branches the aggregate is 497 members, the medium

appears to be 33 & some over to a branch, allowing the other branches to have an equal number to each branch there would be upwards of 1150 belonging to the Society. —

Mosses Swaim delivered an address to the House, for which they voted him their thanks, and requested him to furnish the following committee with a copy for publication, Vizt Mosses Swaim, Richard Mendenhall, Benjamin Swaim, & Zimri Stuart. who are to furnish Benjamin Lundy with a copy, to be published in the genius of Universal Emancipation, and also to furnish Benjamin D. Rounsaville with a copy, to be published in the western Carolinean, a paper edited in Salisbury. —

There was $36:32½ cents reported from the following Branches (to wit) Newgarden $2:62½. Deep River $5: Center $2: Caraway $2.50: Springfield $8: Trotters Creek 2$ Jamestown 5$: Uharree $2:85: Cane Creek $1: prospect 35 cents and $5: from a female Society In the vicinity of Jamestown, with an address suitable to the Occasion, — The above amount was directed on to the treasury by the President. — The following resolution by Mosses Swaim was Adopted — "Resolved, that the Association of females, In Jamestown and its Vicinity, for promoting of our Object, is regarded as Honorable for the sex, and said Association are recognized, as auxiliary, to the Manumission Society of North Carolina." — The board of Managers made a report to the house, which was accepted, — A committee was appointed to prepare a general answer to the queries of the board, — Alexander Gray, Thomas T Hunt, Benjamin Swaim, Joseph Aydelott, Charles Hoover, & Mosses Swaim, form the committee, who are to report to a future sitting of this meeting. — An Address to the Next Session of our General Assembly was read, and adopted, and Refered to the board of Managers; to be copied and sent on to the Legislature By Jonathan Parker, & W'm Unthank, two of the members Elect from Guilford County. — A copy of the Constitution as amended, by the Board of Managers and by them Ordered to be printed, was read, and adopted (Unanimously.). The following preamble & resolutions were Introduced by Alexander Gray,

From a knowledge that the black population of this State

have not had an opportunity of acquiring correct Ideas of Civ
Government, or the restraints which it necessarily imposes o
mankind, for the benefit of the Community, and that from th
manner in which they live, — Under the superintendance o
their Masters, — fed from day to day, by their Master's han
& acting Under his direction & controul, have not acquire
those habits of Industry, & Economy, which are necessary, t
qualify them for the enjoyment of rational Liberty. — An
whereas, it is believed that little can be done, towards improv
ing the minds, or correcting the habits, of those who have bee
raised to mature age in Slavery. — Therefore resolved; — Tha
this Association do earnestly recommend, to all owners o
Slaves, particularly those who have become members of thi
Society, or are friendly to its Objects, to endeavor to cultivat
and improve the minds of the rising Generation of Blacks, an
teach them how to manage, and carry on the business of a farm
or other branches of Industry, without the aid of a white ma
to superintend and direct them, This Association are of opin
ion, that all this may be done — Without much trouble, or ex
pence to the owner, — By establishing Sunday Schools in
Naborhoods, where they can receive a limited Education, both
their morals & minds, will be improved, it will also have the
happy effect, of restraining them from running about, learning
and committing mischief, on that day, — The Industry & econ-
omy of our black population might be promoted and Increased
to a considerable extent, by giving them an Interest in the
product of their labor, and permitting them to have the manage-
ment of such part as fell to their Share, for the Support of
themselves, and families, — So that those who used proper In-
dustry and frugality might live plentifully and well, — while
those that were Indolent & careless, would feel the effects of
their imprudence. — and, in every Naborhood where it can be
done with convenience, let tribunals be established for the trial
of all minor cases between themselves, toward their Masters,
and others, — furnish them with a code of laws for their gov-
ernment; — In the punishment of crimes committed by Slaves;
— permit them, and them only, to act as Judges, and Jurors, in

such cases as may come before them; — and on conviction, pass sentence and carry such Sentence into Execution, in the presence of one or more disinterested white men, whose duty it would be, to see their laws Judiciously executed; — A plan of this description, would not only have the tendency to improve their understanding & restrain them in some degree from the frequent commission of crimes, but would also relieve their Masters from the Odious & unpleasant task, of being both Judge and Executioner, in every càse of offence committed by his Slaves. —— Which after a short discussion was refered to a select committee, Vizt, Alex'r Gray, Alfred Hadley, Samuel Hoggatt, William Talbot, & William Unthank. Who are to report thereon tomorrow. — Mosses Swaim Introduced Sundry resolutions, purporting the Intention of this Association, to petition our Legislature, from time to time, and to remonstrate against the principle and practice of Slavery, — and that the members of this Society, make it a preliminary in voting for any candidate to represent us in our Legislatures, — that they declare themselves against the continuation of Slavery, &c —— which were ordered to lie on the table, Subject to the call of the house. —

On motion it was resolved, — That no resolution be admitted hereafter, during the present session, which will call for the report of a committee. —

Adjourned, to meet at ten O,clock to morrow morning. —

10th, the House convened agreably to adjournment, Sixty five delegates present, — Information was received of ten colored people (slaves) held by John Stafford & Levin Wood, within the limits of Trotters & Cane Creek branches, — whose owners are desirous of liberating them, and conveying them to some place where they may enjoy their freedom, and as their freedom depends upon the life of the present holders, and delay might cause danger, and application being made for some advice and assistance. The House — Resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Alexander Gray in the Chair. The Committee after some deliberation on the Subject agreed to recommend to the House to appoint a select committee to mature

some plan, and report to the house, and the committee rose, and reported as above, ——

The house acceded to the report of the committee, and appointed Mosses Swaim, Joseph Aydelott and Abel Coffin a committee to take the matter into consideration and report to the present sitting, — The committee to prepare General Answers to the following queries, reported as follows, ——

Query 1st) How much does it cost the Government of the United States annually, in Suppressing the Slave trade, and is the System of Slavery which prevails in some of the States, the cause of this expence. —

Answer 1st) Agreably to report made by the Secretary of the Navy, for the year ending on the first day of December 1824 the money expended in that year for the prohibition of the Slave trade, amounted to $15:326: 2 cents, to which may be added, the Salaries & expenditures of our ministers at foreign courts, while negotiating on that subject, all which expence was occasioned by the System of Slavery, which prevails in the United States. —

Query) To what extent is the slave trade carried on from
2nd) one State to another, within the limits of the United States, and what are the consequences attending the inland trade in Slaves. —

Answer) It is a well known fact that the slave trade is
2nd) extensively carried on, between the Slave holding States within the limits of the United States, But to ascertain precisely the extent, to which it is carried, appears Impracticable. As to the consequences which attend the inland trade in Slaves, they are many, & various, — first it gives encouragement to the African Slave traders, to violate the laws of the United States, by smuggling as many Slaves as they can, into a Country, where they find a ready market for them, secondly, It has a tendency to vitiate the morals of our own Citizens, by rendering them regardless of the rights of Mankind, and callous to the feelings of humanity, It is at variance with the principles of the religion we profess, In pointed contradiction to our declaration of Independence, & the principles of a republican Gov-

ernment. It breaks the bond of Marriage, It separates Man & wife, parents and children, and is productive of every crime, which can vitiate the human mind, or destroy the peace and happiness of Mankind. —

Query) To what extent should the Emigration to hayti be
3d) encouraged, and is it likely that this source, which is now open for Emigration, will be sufficient to receive the free colored people of the United States. —

Answer) We think that Emigration to Hayti ought to be
3rd) encouraged to a reasonable extent, that is, all free Negroes capable of earning a livelihood Should be advised to emigrate; and masters should be encouraged to liberate & prepare their slaves for emigrating. Hayti has a surface of about five millions of acres, & a population of not quite one million. we believe it is commonly ranked among the most fertile of the west India Islands, & if it will admit a population proportioned to that of Barbadoes, It may support six or seven Millions of Inhabitants, — The colored population of the United States is about two millions, of course there is no lack of room in Hayti.

Query) Should Emigration to Liberia be encouraged, If
4th) so, what probably would be the difference in the expence, between removing to that place, & Hayti, —

Answer) Emigration to Liberia ought also to be encour-
4th) aged, merely with a view to give the Emigrants a choice in Countries, — from the best calculations we are able to make at present, we think the difference in the expence of emigrating to Hayti, and that of removing to Liberia, is, and will be, about as fifteen to twenty, we earnestly say to the friends of both schemes, — "See that ye fall not out by the way."

Query) Is a majority of the Citizens of North Carolina
5th) opposed to the System of Slavery. —

Answer) We suppose the popular Sentiment of North
5th) Carolina may be estimated according to the following view, Vizt—1/30th of the people are crying out for Immediate Emancipation among us, — 1/20th are for gradual Emancipation. — 1/15th are Supporting Schemes of Emigra-

tion, & Colonization. 3/5ths are ready to promote Emancipation by paying their money and otherwise; provided Masters would cheerfully give up their Slaves, and Government would Undertake the work, on a plan that would operate with Justice, and ensure the safety of all parties. — 1/20th have never thought of the Subject, and neither know or care any thing about it. — 3/20ths are moderately opposed to Emancipation, merely because they think it Impracticable. — and 1/20th are bitterly opposed to it in every shape, not because they expect to sustain a material loss in property, by the Emancipation of Slaves, but because they are ignorant enough to think, that heaping senseless Execration on Manumission Societies &c is an excellent way of flattering the rich, or avaricious, — According to this view, it appears that 3/5ths of the people, or sixty in every hundred, are favorably disposed toward the principle of Emancipation, but are sitting at ease waiting for some exciting cause to shake off the prevailing apathy, & give impulse to that course of policy, which they know already is Just and expedient, we believe about 3/20ths or fifteen in every hundred are at this time active supporters of Universal Emancipation in some way or other. —

Query) By what means can the Slave trade be most
6th) speedily & effectualy Abolished.

Answer) We conceive that the most speedy, as well as
6th) the most Effectual means of abolishing the Slave trade, & Slavery, will be first to enact, that no more Slaves shall be brought into North Carolina, from any other part of the United States, or else where, on any pretence whatever, — second that no Slave shall be transfered from one Master to another for a price, — third, and that all Negroes born after a certain date, shall be considered free born, and through the the whole course of the process, we should labor to induce other Slave States, to follow our example, and constantly encourage Emigration and Colonization with all our might. —

Query) Has there ever been a printing press in this State
7th) that Indicated a disposition to promote Emancipation. —

Answer) 7th) Some of the printing presses in this State, have published extracts from the papers favorable to Emancipation, but we know of none of the Editors who appear earnestly engaged in promoting it. ——

Query) 8th) What did Ohio recommend to the Slave holding States, did she offer to bear her Share of the burden, which might fall on the States in doing away the System of Slavery.

Answer) 8th) Both the State of Ohio, & New Jersey, have recommended to the other States, the Abolition of Slavery, and as the evil is a National one, that the people and the States of this Union, ought mutually to participate in the duties, and burdens of removing it. —

* * * * *

The answers as reported above by the committee were adopted by the house. — The committee to whom was refered the resolutions for the melioration of the Condition of Slaves, reported the same without amendment, and the preamble & resolutions were adopted by the house, — and The Secretary was directed to furnish the Branches which are represented, with a copy each. — Allen U Tomlinson was appointed assistant Clerk. —

Alexander Gray from the committee reported Eight queries, which were adopted, & copies directed to be sent to the several branches to be answered by them, & forwarded to next Association, the queries are as follows ——

Query) 1st) Is Slavery compatible with the principles of a republican Government.?

2nd)) Is it correct policy in the Government of the United States, to permit Slavery to exist in this Country.? —

3rd)) What will be the probable consequences, arising from the continuation of Slavery in some of the States, and excluding it from others.? —

4th) Is it the duty of all, or only the Slave holding states, to abolish Slavery, and incur the expence of removing the people of color from this Country.?

)

5th) Would it be consistent with the interest of the Slave holding States, to Manumit their Slaves, and permit them to reside amongst our white population, and what would be the consequences which would result from such permission.? —

)

6th) Would it be an act of humanity to emancipate our Slaves, & send them to Hayti, or the African Colony, without their consent.? —

)

7th) What plan comporting with common Justice, ought we to adopt, for the total Abolition of Slavery in this Country, & the removal of our black population from amongst us?

)

8th) Whether does the black population or white, Increase fastest in the Slave holding States, in proportion to their numbers, and what ratio doth the increase of the one, bear to the increase of the other.? —

The resolutions of Mosses Swaim, laid on the table yesterday, were called up, and after some debate, the mover obtained leave, & withdrew them. ——

The committee to whom was refered the subject of assisting & advising, about the removal of certain colored persons, within the limits of Trotters & cane Creek branches reported, that in their opinion, it is inexpedient for the Association at this time to Interfere, further than to open Subscriptions at the rise of this Meeting, and the money to be paid into the hands of such person as the association may appoint — And by him to be applied to aid those engaged in this benevolent project, and such further sum as may be raised by the respective branches, for that express object, be as early as possible transmitted to the person so appointed, and that any future aid, or remuner-

ation, in this or similar cases, Should depend on facts distinctly stated by way of petition. — Which report the house concurred, — And appointed Alexander Gray, Phineas Nixon, and David Mock, to open Subscriptions, at the rise of this Meeting, and directed that the representatives request the Chairman of Each branch to open subscriptions within their respective branches, and pay over the money raised for that purpose, to Vestal Coffin, who is appointed to assist in conveying those colored persons to some Seaport, for Embarkation. — On motion, It was resolved, that in future the rules of order be read at the opening of the meeting of Each Association. ——

Deep Creek branch made information of a number of colored Illegally held in bondage in Surry County, & perhaps in some other Naboring County, and Solicited some advice from this meeting. the subject was dismissed with advice not to do anything in it in a society capacity. —

A copy of an address was received from Ebenezer branch, Signed Michael Wilson, which was refered to the board of managers for Examination, and for them to dispose of it as they may think proper. ——

On Motion of Joseph Aydelott, Resolved that this Meeting is sensible of, and deeply regret the loss, which the cause of Justice & humanity have sustained, by the death of Robert Goodloe Harper, and Elias B Caldwell. ——

On Motion of Alexander Gray, It was resolved Unanimously, that the thanks of this Association, be presented to Richard Mendenhall, President thereof, for his steady attention to, and impartial discharge of the duties of the chair during this meeting. ——

The following resolution was also adopted. — Resolved that the thanks of the association be presented, to the Citizens of this naborhood, for their friendly attention to, and accommodation of, the members during the present Session. —

And the house adjourned to meet at Deep river Meeting House, in Guilford County on the Second friday in March next at eleven O, clock. A.M. ——

Attest. Aaron Coffin secretary

The following Preamble and articles of A constitution was ratified in a General Association held at hopewell Meeting House in Randolph County the 9th of September 1825 And though there is but little difference from the former Constitution of 1824 yet it is the one now in use, from which the printed copies in Circulation were ordered. ——

Constitution of the Manumission Society of North Carolina.

The delegates appointed to revise and amend the Constitution of the Society of North Carolina for the gradual Abolition of Slavery, are of opinion, that at this Eventful era, when the attention of Europe and America is excited by the sufferings of the African race, It is incumbent on us to consider whether we are acting up to the principles we profess. — we take the liberty briefly to observe, that we adhere to the declaration of 1776, vizt, That all Men are endowed by the great Creator with certain Unalienable Rights: — that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. — we think that declaration holds good, without respect to color, and that it is the duty of Nations and States, as well as Individuals, and more specially those who profess to be actuated by the republican principle, to suppress Involuntary Slavery among them, and endeavor to remove this dishonor of the Christian character from a free people. — In accordance with these principles, we have adopted the following articles as a constitution.

Article) This Society shall be known by the title of the
1st) Manumission Society of North Carolina, for promoting the gradual Abolition of Slavery, and for Meliorating the condition of the African race among us.
)

2nd) This Society shall convene once in each year, or oftener if necessary, which Meeting Shall be denominated the General Association.
)

3rd) This Society Shall consist of Such Branch Meetings as Shall adopt this Constitution, and be represented in the General Association.
)

4th) The General Association Shall Elect a President, Secretary & Treasurer, by ballot, for the term of two years. — Twelve members shall constitute a quorum, but a smaller number may adjourn from time to time, Until a quorum are convened.

)

5th) It shall be the duty of the Association when met, to transact the business of the Society, and endeavor to promote the objects of this Institution. The money for the Use of the Society is to be raised by free donation of the branches, and by voluntary contribution of Individuals who may wish to promote the views of this Society.

)

6th) Each branch meeting who may adopt this Constitution, Shall be entitled to two representatives in the General Association, But may send one delegate for every ten members. — Each branch may choose their own Officers, and make their own bye laws, consistent with the stipulations of this Constitution. Each branch shall convene once in six months, or oftener if they think proper.

Article)

7th) The reception of Members shall take place at the respective branch meetings; each branch shall keep a record of their members, and report the number Annually to the Association.

)

8th) The General Association may choose a board of managers, if they think proper. To transact the business of the Society in the recess of it's sittings. With regard to the emigration of free colored persons who may be disposed to remove, the Society reserve to themselves the priviledge to act as circumstances may Justify, — To promote emigration to any place which in their Judgment may be most likely to produce the desired effect.

)

9th) It shall be the duty of the President to preside at each meeting of the Association, keep order and deco-

rum, and give such information to the Meeting as he may be in possession of, relative to the affairs of the Society, and recommend such Measures as in his opinion may have a tendency to promote the views of this Institution; he Shall have power to adjourn as occasion may require, and may call a special of the Association at the request of two (or more) of the branches. — In case of absence of the President, the meeting shall appoint one pro tempore. —

)

10th) It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep fair records of the proceedings of Each Association, So as to form a regular Journal of the Transactions of the Society. In case of absence of the Secretary, the meeting shall appoint a Secretary pro tempore.

)

11th) It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive the money collected for the use of the Society; he shall make regular entries of all money received or paid out, but shall not pay out any money without an order from the President, or the Chairman of the board of Managers; he shall exhibit a true statement of the funds at each annual meeting.

)

12th) In case any Member shall violate the principles of this Institution, he may be disowned by the branch Meeting unto which he belongs, Subject to appeal to the General Association.

)

13th) The General Association shall have power to alter or amend this Constitution, when ever two thirds of the branches concur therein.

Ratified in General Association held at Deep River Meeting house in Guilford County the 16th of October 1824.

Richard Mendenhall President.

Aaron Coffin Secretary.

XXVI

Deep River Meeting-house
March 10th 1826

The general Association of the Manumission Society of North Carolina met according to adjournment. The President took the chair, organized the house and calld for the returns from the different branches which appeared as follows

Center 52
- Mosses Swaim
- Himelaus Mendenhall
- William Swaim

New-Garden .....
- Thomas Moore
- Vestal Coffin
- Isaac White

Deep River .....
- Aaron Coffin
- Zimri Stuart
- Abel Coffin
- John Gorden
- John Stuart

Caraway .....
- Phineas Nixon
- John Clark

Springfield
- Alexander Gray
- William Unthank
- Lewis Leach
- Thomas T Hunt
- Allen U. Tomlinson

Emanuel
- Thomas Tomlinson
- David Moffit
- Charles Hoover

Ebeneezer
- James Needham
- William Fentriss
- Michael Wilson

Rocky River
- Eli Vestal

Uharee
- Aaron Hill
- Jesse Winslow
- Davis Hicks

Newberry
- Zecherias Coffin
- Jesse Stanly
- Jonathan Horney
- Temple Unthank
- Joseph Aydlett

Tabernacle
- Jeremiah Mendenhall
- James Laughlin

Deep Creek .....
- John Adams
- William Bond
- Ebenezer Adams

Trotters Creek .....
- Daniel Brower
- William Hill

Cane Creek .....
- Jeremiah Picket
- Frederic Stafford

James-Town
- John Howel
- George D. Mendenhall
- William Haworth
- Joseph C. Stafford
- John Long

Richard Creek .....
- James C. Kersey
- James Newman
- John Bailey
- Enoch Kersey
- Caleb Bailey
- Robert M. Hodson
- Jeddiah Bond

New Salem..
- William Clark

Union
- John Newman
- Thomas Fentriss
- Aaron Stalker

Bethel
- Joseph Hunt
- Samuel Stuart

Dover
- Charles Pigeon
- William Bowman
- Samuel Stanly

Muirs Chappel
- George Swain
- Jeremiah Dodson

Blues Creek
- William Gibson

Providence
- John Branson
- Anthony Chamness
- John Hocket
- Isaac Beeson

Amounting to 23 branches Consisting (as near as can be ascertained) of 1,000 members represented by 70 Delegates

The following branches (to wit) Westfield, Sandy creek, Maries Creek, Muddy Creek, Shiloh, Hunting Creek, Prospect, Reedy Fork, Brush Creek, Hillsborough, Greensborough, Beans shoals, Rehoboth, Mount Olivet, were not represented, it is therefore, impossible to ascertain the number of members imbraced therein, but if we make the branches which are represented, a data from which to calculate, there is upwards of 1600 members imbraced in the different branches connected with the Association

President Mendenhall introduced some Documents relative to the suppression of the slave-trade; which were read, and refered to a committee consisting of Moses Swaim, John Howel, and Charles Hoover, who were instructed to enquire what ammount has been *appropriated,* and *expended* by the

General Government in supressing the trade, from the year 1818, up to the present period.

On motion of Mr. Gorden, a committee was appointed, consisting of John Gorden, William Gibson, Robert M. Hodson and Caleb Bailey; who were instructed to enquire what services have been performed by secretary Coffin during the past year, and report such allowance as they shal think proper

The subject of electing officers of the society was called up, and on motion of Mr. Enoch Kersey, a committee was appointed, Consisting of Moses Swaim, Alexander Gray, John Howel, Joseph Aydlett, Thomas T. Hunt, Thomas Moore, and Nathan Mendenhall, who were instructed to put in nomination three persons for each of the departments of the society.

On motion from the chair it was agreed that the election of officers should take place on tomorrow morning and Joseph Aydlet and John Clark were appointed a committee to superintend the balloting —

On motion of Mr. Hoover a committe was appointed consisting of Thomas T. Hunt, Moses Swaim, Jeremiah Puket, Aaron Hill, Jeremiah Mendenhall, Joseph Aydlett, James C. Kersey, John Howel, William Bond, Phineas Nixon, Charles Hoover, George Swain, Danuel Brower, Samuel Stuart, Zimri Stuart Aaron Stalker William Bowman, Michel Wilson Isaac White & Eli Vestal who were instructed to examine the Answers returned from the several branches and Make out general Answers to the querries adopted at last meeting.

The committe to whom was refered the subject of nominating Candidates for each Department of the Society reported the nomination of David Worth, Moses Swaim, & William Unthank, for *President,* — Aaron Coffin Allen U. Tomlinson and Wm Swaim, for *secretary,* and Nathan Mendenhall, Thomas T. Hunt, and Abel Coffin for *Treasurer.*

On motion of General Gray a Committee was appointed consisting of Alexander Gray, Moses Swaim, and Charles Hover, who were instructed to take into consideration an address from the female Association of James Town allso a com-

munication upon the subject of emancipation from Mrs. Elizabeth S. Millis, and report their opinion thereon tomorrow.

On motion of Moses Swaim the House Adjourned Till tomorrow morning at 11 oclock.

March the 11th 1826 the house met according to adjournment, and the following gentlemen (to wit) John Newman Benjamin Swaim, Joseph V. Gregg, Joseph Davis Stephen G. Mendenhall, Benjamin Milikan and Edward Bond appeared. Certified their election as delegates from certain of the branches and took their seats accordingly.

John Gorden, President of the Bord of Managers Presented an Essay of a Memorial to congress which was read and recommitted to the bord of managers for amendment, and George Swain, Alexander Gray and Benjamin Swaim were appointed to assist them in making out a correct coppy who are instructed to forward the same to the next session of congress.

On motion of General Gray the bord of managers were instructed to prepare an essay of a memorial to the next general Assembly and produce the same to the next meeting of this Association.

John Gorden Presented the resignation of Thomas Moore as a member of the board of Managers which The house accepted and appointed George Swain and General Gray as members of that body in his sted.

Benjamin Swaim Introduced the memorial of B. Sherwood, of Lexington Praying the society to petition the legislature in moving terms to interpose the arm of the law, between the tyrants *rod,* and the defenceless *slave* which was read and referd to the bord of managers.

Vestal Coffin reported that he had received $23.70 which was made up by private donation for the purpose of removing Certain Coloured persons to the Hatian Government whereupon the society ordered him to retain it in his possession till further orders.

The following donations were received for which the Society voted its thanks to the donors and ordered the same into the treasury

From Edward J Hall of Fayetteville $1.00
William Gibson 1.00
Deep Creek branch 3.00
Females in N. Salem 2.70

The committees apointed for the purposes above mentioned produced the following reports which were read and adopted.

Your committe to whom was referd the Document relative to the suppression of the slave trade respectfully *"report"* that from an examination of s[d] Documents it appears that the Aggregate sum appropriated by the general government for the surpression of the Slave trade from the year 1818 to the present period is $150,000 of which sum there has actually been expended, $120,440.93 ballance unappropriated $29,557.07.

Respectfully Submitted by Moses Swaim Chairman

Your committe to whom was referd the settlement with the secretary, have had the subject under consideration and respectfully — *report* — that in the opinion of your committee, the sum of $8.00 will be a suitable allowance for his services the past year.

Respectfully submitted by *R. M. Hodson* Chairman

Your committe to whom was referd the subject of Answering the queries have reviewed the various answers and respectfully report the following sellection.

Query 1st is slavery compatible with the principles of a republican government?

Answer — Slavery is wholly incompatible with the Spirit of republicanism, a government of that kind being founded entirely on the will of the governed, it would therefore be absurd to suppose a government such, when any portion of its population were held in unconditional bondage, and not permitted to participate in making the laws by which they are governed.

2nd — is it correct policy in the government of the united States to permit slavery to exist in this country?

Answer — we answer it is not. although it comes within the legitimate range of state legislation to abolish it. and it is devoutly to be wished that each slave state would direct its policy

to that end; or at least manifest a disposition to have it done. yet it is the paramount duty and may become a measure of national policy, of the last importance for the general government to abolish slavery throughout the country, independent of individual states — The facilities offered by its continuance to an invading enemy, the dangers to the nation from successfull insurrection, &c. being admitted, which no candid politician will deny — we will briefly enquire whether Congress would transcend its constitutional powers, by abolishing slavery throughout the U. States. — The 8th Section of the 1st Article, most Unquestionably and unequivocally gives to Congress "power to provide for the common defence, and promote the general wellfare of the United States" if the work of emancipation is not done in better *time,* and by other *hands,* is it not *likely,* in the course of human events, a crissis may arrive when it will be a measure of national policy of the last importance to forestall an invading foe by an *instantaneous* and *general* emancipation of all the Slaves? was not this expedient partially resorted to by some of the states in the revolutionary war? would the greatest stickler for State rights question the constitutional power of congress to take such a course in such a crissis? And is it less in her power, or less her political duty, to obviate the greater evil by gradually providing in time of peace for the common defence at this verry accessible and vulnerable point?

3rd What will be probable consequence arising from the continuence of slavery in some of the states and excluding it from others.

Answer — The continuation of slavery in some of the states & excluding it from others will have a tendency to weaken the bonds of our union, by producing sectional Interests and Jealousies in our national councils. When ever sectional interest comes in question, the slave holding states will be on the one side and the nonslaveholding states on the other, and which ever has the preponderence will finally govern the nation, unless a separation of the union takes place which is much to be feared.

4th is it the duty of *all,* or only the slaveholding states to abolish slavery, and incur the expence of removing the peoples of colour from this country.

Answer — If it is the duty of any of the states to abolish slavery, as some have done, and act consistent with the declaration of "American Independence" it then certainly is the duty of all. And those states that do *not,* fly in the face of that republican and much Eulogised instrument. And as to the expence of removing the people of colour from amongst us, as sure as it is an evil, (which it is allmost universally acknowledged to be) so sure is it a national *one,* and will require a national effort to remove it from the whole union; reasons might be produced to show that it is not only the *duty* but the *policy* also, both in a political and pecuniary point of view, for all to Assist in a speedy removal of them from amongst us.

5th would it be consistant with the interest of the slave holding state to manumit their slaves and permit them to remain amongst our white population and what would be the consequence which would result from such permission.

Answer — Immediately to manumit the slave now in being, would, we think, be a measure of verry doubtfull policy without any previous provision for their emigration would, we think be a measure of verry doubtful policy — but we apprehend no *comparative* from their gradual emancipation on some such plan as that pursued by the State of *New York.* we think it would be highly consistant with the pecuniary interest of the slaveholding States. one consequence would be, it would bring *free* labour into fair competition with *slave* labour, and could not fail to sho the superiority of the *former* over the latter. — If we Judge from the situation of the generality of those all ready nominally free, we should be compelled to say the consequences to them would be vagrancy. but we doubt whether this be proper data from which to calculate, as in their present situation their necessecary connexion with slaves by mariage renders them a suspected people, especially by those masters

whose eye is continually over them for evil. was the cause of such clandestine intercourse removed by a gradual and general emancipation, we see no reason why they should not be subservient to our laws, assiduous in their occupations and emulous of character which alone could give value to their existance, with respect to the whites, while they (the blacks) were obedient to the laws and under the descipline of their lash we know of no ill consequences that could result, except it be said it would give new impulse to that detested emalgamation all ready in such rapid progress in many parts of the country and of this we verry much doubt, as the female slave would be further removed from the power of her master.

6th would it be an act of humanity to emancipate our slaves and send them to Hayti or the african colony without their consent?

Answer — It would be an act of humanity. that being a comparative term, allthough it would seem more humane to send them *with* their consent, yet, it does not follow that it would not be humane to send them there *without* their consent. They have, by an unjust exertion of force been deprived of their natural liberty, of the power of *locomotion,* or removing from place to place, at their own will and pleasure, and this *without* their *consent,* therefore any act which would eventuate in the restoration of that right to them and their posterity, would doubtless be an act of humanity in the present debaced condition of their reasoning powers we should be unjust to regulate the measure of humanity towards them by what might be their Answers to capricious questions, but we should be governed by what our own judgement would tell us *should* be the answer of reasoning, reflecting *creatures* —

7th what plan comporting with common Justice ought we to adopt, for the total abolition of slavery, and the removal of our coloured population from amongst us?

Answer — we think that no better plan can at present be adopted, than to *manumit,* and *emigrate* as fast as our situation will permit agreeable to the principles under which we are acting.

8th whether does the black or white population increase the fastest in the slaveholding states in proportion to their numbers and what ratio doth the increase of the one bare to the increase of the other?

Answer — It is evident that the blacks increase faster than the whites. In North Carolina we find the ratio of increase to be as two to one — In south carolina the ratio of increase exceed three to one, but when we take the whole of the slaveholding states we find the ratio of increase to be about as fifty six is to fifty three —

Respectfully Submitted by *Thomas T Hunt* Chairman

Your committe to whom was referd an address from the Female society of *James Town,* Report that they have had the same under consideration and highly approve of the sentiments therein expressed, and allthough your committe agree with them "that many circumstances appear discouraging in the efforts of the society towards meliorating the condition of the african race" and restoring them in a short time to their primative rights and privaliges of liberty and freedom; Yet this society cannot dispair of ultimately effecting their object, when they reflect that the cause in which they are engaged is the cause of humanity and are Assured that they have the best wishes and cordial co-operation of Many worthy and respectable *females* to assist, and stimulate them in this great work, a work which must be acceptable to the Deity himself and to every person of humane feelings — your committe agree that the assistance profferd by the ladies of James Town and its vicinity intitles them to the highest respect and regard which this society can bestow upon them, and may that power who presides over universal Nature, watch over, protect and make them instrumental in eradicating the shackles of slavery from the human race —

Respectfully Submitted by *Alexander Gray* Chairman

Your committe to whom was referd the address of Mrs. Elizabeth Millis Report that they have had the same under consideration and concieve that its merits the respectfull attention of the association your committe therefore reccommend that it

be referd to the board of managers and beg leave to submit the following resolution. Resolved, that it is a source of much gratification to this body to see the simpathies of the fair becoming more and more enlisted in the cause of Emancipation. That an increased exertion of their intellectual faculties and an enlarged participation in those works of *Justice, Benevolence,* and *humanity* in which our sex may be engaged will enlarge the circle which Custom has improperly prescribed to their *action* and *usefullness* and elivate them to the sphere in which nature intended them to move.

Respectfully submitted by *Moses Swaim* Chairman

The following resolutions were introduced and adopted by a unanimous vote of the society

By Nathan Mendenhall — Resolved that the sum of five Dollars be advanced to our president elect for the purpose of defraying the expence of postage pertaning to his office.

By General Gray — Resolved that the thanks of this Association be presented to Mr. Philo White Editor of the "western carolinian" for his prompt attention to the request of the Association in publishing the proceedings of their last meeting together with the address delivered on that occasion —

By Stephen G. Mendenhall — Resolved that the female Society of James Town be presented with a coppy of the report and resolutions of the committe on the address from that Society.

By General Gray — Resolved that the thanks of this society be presented to the female society of James Town for their respectable address and proffered Assistance in the cause of humanity.

By Moses Swaim — Resolved that the thanks of this Association be presented to Mrs. Elizabeth S. Millis for her worthy communication, and that she be presented with a coppy of the report and resolution of the committe apointed thereon —

By General Gray — Resolved that the address of the female society of James Town be entered on the minutes of this Association.

By General Gray — Resolved that the thanks of this house be voted to the citizens of this neighbourhood for their kind attention to the members of this association during the present session.

By General Gray — Resolved that the thanks of this Association be presented to Richard Mendenhall for his faithfull discharge of the duties of the chair during the session.

Address of the

Female Society of James Town — To the general Association of the Manumission Society of North Carolina to be held at Deep River Meeting house on the 10th day of March 1826 — We as a female Society of James Town presume to address your honourable body on the serious cause of emancipation being sensible of our inability to do much or ad any great strength to the arduous task that is begun. yet we are willing to evince to the public our love and sympathy with those who are engaged in the cause of liberty an of meliorating the condition of the poor african race. Allthough many circumstances appear discouraging in the efforts and labour of our brethren in the legislative capacity yet we feel encouraged, knowing the work is begun in the hearts of many and that omnipotence will never desert the cause of Justice and humanity. We believe that Slavery is a growing evil on our Nation; and that the plea is to slender, because their slaves are black, for us to deprive our fellowbeings of their liberty: *Liberty* that sweet sound that ever re-echos back to the heart of the Philanthropist! — We are *ready,* and *willing* to assist you in the virtuous cause when you find that some of the degraded Africans would emigrate to Hayti or some other free Government, and want any thing that we can furnish. We have, at present in our treasury some cloth and stockings; and more can be made when you think it Necessary: and, as sympathising fellow travelers, we say the Great master and fountain of all Good be with you, and hasten the glorious work of humanity! —

Signed by order of the meeting by

Elizabeth S. Mendenhall

Secretary

The committee appointed to superintend the balloting for officers reported the election of Mosses Swaim President, William Swaim Secretary, and Nathan Mendenhall Treasurer of the Association.

On motion the house adjourned to meet at Center Meeting House in Guilford County on friday the 8th of September next at 11 A. M.

XXVII

Center Meeting House Guilford Cty.
— September 1826. —

The General Association of the Manumission Society of North Carolina, met according to adjournment. The returns, from the different branches, being called for by the president, appeared as follows

New-Garden 40
- Vestal Coffin
- Isaac White
- William Stanly

Center 112
- Moses Swaim
- Benjamin Swaim
- Joshua Stanly
- Himelaus Mendenhall
- David Worth
- William Reynolds
- John Hodgin
- Jonathan Hodgin

Deep River 50
- John Gordon
- Aaron Coffin
- Zimri Stuart
- Samuel Nixon
- Parris Wheeler

Caraway 31
- John Henly
- Phineas Nixon
- Nixon Henly

Springfield 77
- Alexander Gray
- William Unthank
- Thomas T. Hunt
- Allen U. Tomlinson
- Joseph Hunt
- Benjamin Milican
- Lewis Leach

Deep Creek .....
- Jacob Brown
- Joseph Carter
- Joshua Bond

Trotters Creek 30
- Joshua Johnson
- David Patterson
- Elihu Picket

Cane Creek 44
- Solomon Allen
- William Weisner
- Frederic Stafford
- John Marshal

James Town 75
Richard Mendenhall
Aaron Rich
Jonathan Gardner
Stephen Gardner
John Howel
George D. Mendenhall
Jeddiah Wright
Richland Creek 87
James Newman
John Railes
George Parsons
Robert W. Hodson
Solomon Millis
James C. Kersey
Enoch Harlon
Jessé Hodson (sen)
Emanuel 79
Charles Hoover
Ebenezer 41
John Parker
Louis Walton
Benjamin Thomas
William Needham
Rocky-River .....
David Lindley
Uharee 119
Henry B. Hill
Aaron Hill
Lingrum Burkhead
Jesse Winslow
Davis Hicks
Micajah Hill
William Hanner
Isaiah Hicks
Eliazar Laughlin
Elisha Hardister
Jesse Hill
Newberry 28
Zacherias Coffin
Jesse Stanly (sen)
Jonathan Horney
Joseph Aydlet
Tabernacle 76
Joseph Hoover
Thomas Pierce
David White
Louis Jones
John Briles
James Laughlin
Henry Young
New Salem 44
William Clarke
William Dennis
Jesse Hinshaw
James Dicks (sen)
Union .....
Tristram Cogshall
Joseph Welborne
Bethel .....
John Barker
Dover 27
Charles Pigeon
Reuben Starbuck
Muirs Chapel 19
George Swaim
John Wilson
Blues Creek
William Gibson
Constantine D. Lad
Moses Young
Providence 41
John Branson
Thomas Lamb
Obediah Eliot
Anthony Chamness

Westfield .....
Sandy Creek .....
Hezekiah S. Clarke
Azarah Hinshaw
Maries Creek .....
Muddy Creek .....
Shiloh .....
John Shelly
John Miller
John Hayworth
William Davis
Hunting Creek 13
William Macy
Joseph Patterson
Prospect .....
Reedy Fork .....
Brush Creek .....
Hillsborough .....
Greensborough .....
Silliam Adams
T. Early Strange
Beans-Shoals
John Pierce
John Adams
Rehoboth 18
James Millis
William N. Jackson
Mount Olivet .....
John Hendrix
William Cox
Thomas Lawrence
Lewis Craven
Thomas Macon
Louis Needham
Jersey-Settlement 21
John Turner
Reuben Workman
South Fork .....
Joshua Lindly
Thomas Lindley
Loves Creek
Duty Dorset
Jonathan Smith
The following Female Associations were Recognized as auxiliaries (to wit)
Jamestown
Springfield
Kennet &
Center—
each of which presented the Association with a verry pertinent Communication.

The president informed the Association that he had prepared a *communication,* which, on motion of Richard Mendenhall, was introduced and read as follows —

Fellow Members

Since the period of our semi-annual meeting in March, but few events connected with the object of our institution have fallen so fully within my knowledge, as to enable me, in making this communication, to mark, with much precision, our progress

towards its attainment. From the return of delegates, you will be enabled to discover to what extent the Society has drawn to itself additional numbers within the last half year: This, however, will not form the proper, or the only ground on which to estimate the progress of public opinion, in relation to the future destination of our coloured population.

The history of the day furnishes abundent evidence, that the statesman is beginning to view the subject of Gradual Emancipation, and *Colonization,* as inseperably connected with the *honour,* the *welfare,* and the *safety* of his country. This is conducting his political economy to fair conclusions on the comparative value of *free* and *slave* labour; and showing him the superiority of the *former* over the latter, for all purposes of national wealth and Greatness: It is raising his latent energies, to vindicate the purity of our *fundamental principle* from the insidious invasions of anti-republican practice; and to rescue that *beautiful* and sublime theory, which is the admiration of the world and the pattern of regenerated Nations, from the stigma, which obscure and corrup application has cast upon it. The Minister of Religion is casting his eye, in displeasure from that Soul-killing aspect of vassalage which degrades the Master, debases the Slave, corrupts them both and disgraces the church; and, with his gentle rebuke, is bringing back his flock to the *simple, Just,* and equitable principles of the Gospel.

Were it not that it would preoccupy the space allowed for matter more immediately interesting in our present capacity, we might, here, with pleasure, indulge in a brief retrospect of the declarations and labours of many of our worthy Statesmen and Divines, some of whom, Alas are no more! — The benevolent exertions of the Clergy in aid of that truly national institution, "the *Colonization Society*" Merit the highest encomium that their reward is above all earthly praise! — While these things speak to us in tones of Conviction, that "the spirit is moving upon the waters" let it awaken our warmest gratitude to heaven, that we are permitted to live at a day, and in a country, where the operation of public opinion, *indulgent* and *virtuous,* can re-

move the most inveterate prejudices of habit, rectify the greatest abuses, reform the most absurd systems and avert the greatest scourges. And while we move forward with firm and steady purpose, not to be diverted from our object, let us studiously avoid all unnecessary Iritation of those deep-rooted prejudices which have grown up with our Countrymen, and cannot be suddenly eradicated without sensible pain; but will yield to a course of *mild, Gentle,* and consistant measures. It cannot have escaped your observation that these prepossessions are generally found obstinate, in proportion to the age of the party affected with them. This points out to the active philanthropist the proper field for his labours; and affords him the consolation of seeing the youth of his country growing up with a more exalted sense of his Country's honour, and, and more consistant views of his own duty as a patriot and christian.

In persuing the supplicating course which the Society has marked out for itself — the subject of petitioning the next General Assembly will claim your first attention. If it be expedient to petition that body this year, to what specific object, connected with our General views, will you pray their legislative care? — As our free coloured population have been long denounced as a *nuisance* and a *pest,* if there be sincerity in this denunciation, may we not prevail on our legislature to aford some facilities for their transportation? — This has been considered an object not unworthy the legislative regard of our sister, *Virginia;* nor can we suspect less magnanimity in this state, especially, when it is recollected that private munificence (in which this society bore an humble part) has been found sufficient to charter a vessel for the accommodation of one hundred and nineteen emigrants to a clime more congenial to their nature, and auspicious to their happiness.

It is believed that many of our citizens are desirous to free themselves of the anomilous practice of holding men in slavery in a Christian Republic, but are with-held by the allmost insurmountable difficulties in the way to emancipation (the existance of which, the decissions of our Supreme Court on this point, abundantly prove:) first, the small addition made to their hap-

piness by bestowing that liberty which is merely nominal, while they remain among us, degraded, and destitute of those immunities which inhance the value of that Blessing: Secondly, the continual danger of their reduction to a State of Slavery, by circumvention of knavery, which must remain, so long as our laws permit the flimsy pretensions of the white claimant, to impose the burden of proof on the black person claimed: thirdly, the path of emigration from North Carolina is not laid sufficiently open, to admit an easy access to those benevolent masters, who would place their slaves beyond the effect of partial laws co-operating with individual rapacity. It is therefore submitted to your consideration, whether it be not expedient to appoint a special agency, whose duty it shall be to open a correspondence, with the American Colonization Society, through its resident agent: and with other agencies, for emigration to Hayti, with a view to ascertain the most practicable and expeditious means for their conveyance to some port for embarkation, if practicable, within this State. The opposition that has hitherto been made to Haytien emigration, seems mostly to have resulted from *fear* (that ever haunting and spectral shadow of guilt) lest the growing importance of that Island combined with other events in the Southern half of our hemisphere should effect the slave System in the United States, in a way unfavourable to the wishes of its advocates. The rising visionary fears, and false representations concerning that Island, its government, and inhabitants, sufficiently refute themselves, and leave on our minds a clear conviction, that Citizenship *there,* is infinitely prefferable to *vassalage,* or nominal *Freedom here;* and that it is no less for our interest, than it is for the hapiness of the coloured race, to promote their emigration: Nor can we fear that both the channel to Hayti, and Libera, will drain of this population faster than the true interest of our country requires. Should you resolve to persue measures as sudjested above — such an agency, to make it efficient, would require to be vested with require to be vested with ample discretionary powers.

The verry cool and repulsive manner, to say the least, in which the friendly overtures of the State of Ohio was met by the executive of this state, seems not calculated to lesson those sectional feelings which can never become a source of Good to our Common Country; and subsequently, the declaration of some intemperate politicians, are obviously *calculated,* if not *intended* to exite them where they exist, and to create them where they exist not. It would be erroneous, should the communication, alluded to, be considered by any sister state as the universal Sentiment of North Carolina: It may not, therefore, be improper to address the Legislature of Ohio in a manner expressive of the sence in which we understand their proffered kindness; Recollecting that the policy, for which we are contending, is defused over an extent imbracing no inconsiderable portion of the wealth and population of the State.

The Colonization Society, having satisfactoryly developed the practability of its object; and the Liberian Colony fast rising into political and commercial consequence; may we not look forward to the next Session of Congress as a proper period at which to unite our prayers with them, that the patronage of the National Government may be extended to that Institution? However desirable it may be that our senators and representatives be spoken to on this subject, through our State Legislature; yet may we not indulge the hope, that if the subject is, in any way, brought before Congress, pecuniary aid will be afforded, at least to the amount appropriated for the suppression of the Slave Trade? —

The American Convention for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the United States, seem never to have lost sight of their object: their meetings, it is believed, have been biennually held in the City of Philadelphia since the year 1786. It will be recollected that *that* institution became an active Coadgitor in that first great towards a reformation, which was effected by both Great *Brittain* and *America,* in the year 1808. But this, by no means constituted the Great design or realized the patriotic and benevolent views of a society, of which a Franklin, a Rush, a Beneret and a Pemberton were Members. It is much

to be desired that all the Numerous Societies which have for their object, the Amelioration of the condition of the African race could come together in one General Congress: & thus give Systematic and United energy to their labours in this all important, and National cause. The institution above mentioned seems to furnish the Ground for this Coalition: — and willing to afford every facility to their fellow Citizens of the more Southern States, whose condition so imperiously require their early, and unremitted efforts, they have adjourned their next Session to the City of Baltimore on the 25th of October next. A letter from the Secretary of the acting Committee, with an extract of their Constitution, will herewith be submitted to your consideration.

The subject of establishing a press devoted to the cause of emancipation and colonization will probably be brought before you from some of the branches, where it is understood to have been taken into consideration. The expediency of this measure, will, at some period, demand a due and attentive investigation. The freedom of the press, is emphatically called *"the great bulwark of Liberty"* — and our fathers, when they entered the *Social* Compact, for their own government, declared it free from restraint — that is, as free as we are "to assemble together to consult for our common good, to instruct our representatives, to petition for redress of grievances &c." What ever may be said of the press in this State as a *"Bullwark of Liberty"* in the sense in which it was used by the national convention in 1776, we know that in a government like ours, it is the grand medium for the transmission of Ideas, and the interchange of opinions between man and man; that it is at once the vehicle of intelligence, and a powerfull instrument for the reformation of such practices as are heterogenial to free popular government, where it is under no undue, or improper influence. These establishments being generally private property, and the comfort and convenience of the proprietor, or conductor, in a pecuniary point of view, dependent on their judiciary management — it was not to be expected that the colums of our periodical prints, would be unhesitatingly opened to admit the dis-

cussion of a *rong* and its remedy (which can only be adjudged by the people and decided by them) while popular prejudice, spring from false views of private interest, was so deeply interested to keep off the investigation. But now, both Slaveholder, and nonSlaveholder are uniting together: conscious that procrastinating the enquiry will not Lessen its intricacy; and that the Country cannot avert her danger by obstinately closing her eyes upon it: and by their labours and calculations are showing, incontrovertably, not only the moral guilt, but the political absurdity of slavery and are proving, with Mathematical acuracy, that our republic must, at no distant day, be placed (to mention no more recent instances) in such a predicament as Rome by her plebians, and Greece by her helotes, have been; is it not reasonable to expect that this avenue to the public eye should be a little more liberally opened to us? Are our opponents affraid to meet us on that ground, and *record* their reason to our *declaration?* But it must be observed, and to the honour of the editorial fraturnity, that many of them have acted, recently, with great impartiality and independence on this subject. Indeed most of their papers have been, within a few years, much improved in being divested of those odious figures prefixed to slave advertisements. What hapy changes might be wrought through the instrumentality of men so inteligent generally — whose situation is so favourable as the editor of a periodical paper. Whenever you shall Judge it expedient to take up the consideration of this subject, I presume you will be disposed, either to put in operation a press of your own, or to afford prompt and efficient patronage to one allready in operation, pretty senturally situated in the wealth and population of the State.

The great and increasing interests of the Society require your deliberation on other subjects of *equal,* perhaps greater importance than those here presented; but which the short piriod prescribed for the Session necessesarily precludes; especially as it is probable sundry matters will come up from the branches, together with others of equal claim from your bord of managers should they report.

With this transient and incomplete view of the interests of the Society, permit me, in conclusion, to remark on the State of it, *generally*. If we compare its present aspect with what it was in 1823, we have abundant reason to believe that we are advancing, with no tardy steps toward the consumation of our hopes: that is such a renovation in public opinion as will put in operation a system of policy before which the degrading anomily of republican slave laws, will shrink into the legitimate regions of Despotism or else be driven from the world. We know that some selfish men have endeavoured to append odious Ideas to the term *"reformation:"* effect to speak of what they are pleased to call self-created Societies with contempt; and to stigmatize all efforts for the abolition of Slavery with such epithets as only proceed from that contracted circle of vision which is amply filled by the contemplation of their mistaken views of *private interest* — which seems incapable of being expanded so as to take in subjects of such magnatude as their countries wellfare, and the hapiness of unborn millions *white* and *black*. But let us, at all times recollect that those are our Countrymen, and these the prejudices naturally produced by a system of Slavery. Our duty to them requires that we hold our indignation abstractedly — and while we feel a Just abhorrence of the system, and labour earnestly for its extermination, let us, as much as possible, pitty and spare its misguided advocates. Their powerless efforts will, in the end, have no other effect than to rouse the latent energies of reason, truth, and Justice into more vigorous action; and show, in a more luminous manner, that the reformation contended for, *is* to be effected by the mildest means, and for the noblest of purposes — *nothing less than the temporal and eternal hapiness of man*. What would great part of Europe have been at this time, had it not been for this abused & columniated spirit of *Reformation?* (entitled, in her present condition, to sympathy and Commiseration) she had yet groaned under the accumulated woes of government and religion perverted; and make a mere Michane to oppress and enslave man, whom they were designed to *bless* and *elevate*. Look back with me, through the medium of history, to the days

when the Inquisition, recognised and sustained by the Servil polity, was filling the dark caverns of the Bastile, and other prissons with such scenes of human woes, as human nature shudders to contemplate! and reccollect that, but for reformation the inquisition, with all its baleful effects must have atended to this fair Country! — and yet we are told that "dangers alarming" hang over all attempts for Reformation! and this too, when the white Sail of your commerce is yet scarcely cleansed from the blood-stains of the *Slave Trade,* or the groans of Tortured And dying man silenced in those "floating dungeons" whose proprietors, so late as the year 1807 were licenced by every government in Christendom, to pillage from her coast the devoted children of unhappy Africa. Let us no longer hear this hypocritical Monition from the lips of free men — where the perpetual and forcible tendency of the government is to "reform" abuses, and render its self pure. It has been well observed by a good writer that "there is nothing dangerous to *man* or *people* but a willful neglect of duty." — Again, our opponents have lucklessly blundered on a term which they do not understand, or else they intend to be consistant, and arouse their disaffection to the fundamentals of Republican government and at once abjure its essence. What term can be more significant of the spirit of our free institutions than "self created society? What is this mighty Republic but a state of self-created Society? What the great text-book of its government, but a voluntary, self-imposed compact against Slavery? Thank Heaven! there is no man, nor set of men, known to our government — No king governing by *"divine right,"* with power to arraigne and disperse the membrals of Society; to *create* and *anihilate* them at pleasure, untill they shall subserve the impure purposes of dominant party. The Chartered rights of self-created Society, in all its minute ramifications, in their due and proper exercise, produces that popular voice which an eminent sage declares to be no other than the voice of a supreme intelligence: (vox populi vox dei.) This *popular voice,* it is, which, for the improvement of human hapiness, and exaltation of man as a rational and social being, is more *potent* than the sovereign mandate of kings and Emperors. It is to be observed

that in all those great Reformations, to which Nations have owed their temporal Salvation, and civilized man has been indebted for his enjoyments, that the verry means employed to *crush,* and suppress them, have operated as additional springs to their movement; and have been made to subserve and grace the verry triumph they were intended to defeat! —

These Hasty remarks, I trust, will be properly appreciated and that prudent circumspection, which has hitherto charraterized the subordinate Branches, will continue to shield the institution from all Just cause of imputation; and Justify both its principles and practice, in the Judgement of the intelligent and temperate part of the community. And, as additional light is shed upon this subject, we have additional reason to confirm our Confirm our confidence, that in a course of patient perseverance, we shall continue to see the hand of a superintending providence pointing out the way, developing the means, and preparing the minds of our Countrymen, to put a final termination to the *wrongs* of *Africa,* and the *dishonour* of *America!*

I have the honour to be

Devotedly and

Respectfully

Moses Swaim

On motion of Richard Mendenhall, the above Communication was referd to a committee consisting of Richard Mendenhall, David Worth, George Swain, Benjamin Swaim, and T. Early Strange who were instructed to take into consideration the various measures sudjested therein, and report their opinion thereon tomorrow.

Received a verry appropriate Communication from each of the female Associations of *James town, Springfield, Kennet,* and *Center,* allso an address from Rachel Leonard, which were read and referd to a committee, Consisting of *Zimri Stuart,* John Henly, William Reynolds, Charles Hoover, and Thomas T. Hunt, who were instructed to examine their contents and report on tomorrow.

Benjamin Swaim Introduced a Refference from the Center Branch Reccomending the explanation or amendment of the

Constitution respecting the reception of members, which was referd to a select committee consisting of Himelaus Mendenhall Nixon Henly, and Phineas Nixon (Jnr) who were instructed to investigate the Subject and report tomorrow.

Received Refferences from New Garden and Center branches, reccomending the establishment of a printing press at the expence, and subject to the Control of the Society which were ordered to lie on the table.

Thomas T. Hunt Introduced a refference from Springfield containing Several questions, which were referd to a select Committe, consisting of David patterson, William Gibson Joseph Welborne, Josiah Hicks, and John Turner, who were Instructed to make such selections, and additions as they shall think proper and report on tomorrow.

A communication from the dover branch upon the subject of slavery was laid on the table, which read and Referd to the Bord of managers.

On motion, a committee consisting of Aron Coffin Joseph Carter and Vestal Coffin was appointed, who were Instructed to prepare an essay of an address to the legislatures of Ohio and Indianna, informing them of the manner in which the members of this Society understand their profered kindness, and to report on tomorrow.

On motion of Richard Mendenhall the House adjourned till tomorrow at 11 o'clock A. M.

September the 9th, the house met according to adjournment.

John Gordon, President of the Bord of Managers produced an essay of a memorial to the Next General Assembly which was read, and re-committed to the bord of managers who were instructed to correct and transmit the *same* to the ensuing General Assembly.

The Committee to whom was referd the communication from the chair report that so much thereof as relates to memorializing the general Assembly has allready been before the bord of managers — that so much thereof as relates to the appointment of a special agency be allso referd to the bord of managers — That with regard to the american convention, a committee be appointed to write to the next session giving the

information *asked,* in the *letter referd* to in the message so far the house concured with the report of the com committee and appointed William Reynolds Mosses Swaim and Benjamin Swaim, who were instructed to write to the *"Convention"* as mentioned in the Report — an that part of the Message relative to the establishment of a press, the committee reccommend that efficient patronage be extend to some particular press allready in operation, on condition that one page be devoted to Manumission and Colonization — on this part of the report the house resolved into a committee of the whole (Richard Mendenhall in the chair) after considerable investigation; it was moved and carried that the bord of Managers be instructed to issue a prospectus (ten copies to each branch) for a monthly publication to be printed under the Control of this Society; That that they be left at discretion what size the paper shall be, also, what price shall be paid by subscribers. That whenever a sufficient number of subscribers be obtained to indemnify the expence, they be at liberty to put the same into immediate operation by employing an editor and making such other contracts as the expedience of the case may require — The committee then rose and reported as above, which report the house confirmed — The select committee to whom was referd the Presidents message, reccommend, in conclusion that from five to ten Copies of sd. message together with extracts from the minutes of this Association be printed for each branch in connexion with this Association, and that a portion of them be reserved for foreign distribution and the ballance distributed among the branches in proportion to their numbers — with this part of the report the House concurd and appointed William Adams, George Swain and J. A. Mebane to superintend the printing, and to call on the Treasurer for money to defray the expense —

The committee to whom was referd the refference from Center, with regard to the reception of members — report, that they concieve it unncessary to make any alteration in the constitution, and beg leave to reccommend the adoption of the following Resolution:

Resolved that each Seperate branch be considered at liberty to exercise its own discretion with regard to the reception and

qualificications of its members, provide they conform to the *principle* and *letter* of the constitution. — which report and resolution was adopted by the house.

The Committee to whom was referd the several Female addresses produced the following report, and resolutions which were unanimously adopted —

Your committe to whom was referd the consideration of the several female addresses, Report: that they have had the same under consideration, and that, without refference to the source from whence they eminated, they contain a fund of good sence, and noble sentiment; but when we reflect that they sprang from the female sex, their excellence is doubly inhanced. The reading of them recalls to our memory the tender and maternal carresses which soothed our infantile sorrows. Their effect may be compared to the glimmering of the Pharos in the midsts of a tempestuous ocean, — at onece a beautiful object and a sure way-mark; or to the first glimmering of effulgence on the oriental skies, a sure token of the glad approach of morn. Their alleviation of our toil, may be likened to the music of a vernal grove adjoining a field of labour; or to a sprightly companion along a rugged path, at once beguiling the hours and smoothing down the asperities of the way. Their voice is like the voice of prophecy, saying "Go on, ye shall surely prosper; the Most High is on your side; He will guide and assist you, only ascribe to him the Glory!"

Your committee further report: That they concieve these addresses, or, at least, a part of them, to be worthy of publication; they therefore beg leave to propose, that they be referd to a special committee, to correct, prepare, and forward them to the press.

Your Committee also, beg leave to submit the following Resolutions (Viz)

Resolved, that, through the medium of the president, the thanks of this Association, be returned to the female Societies of *Jamestown, Springfield, Kennet,* and center and to Mrs. Rachel Leonard for their several excellent addresses: and that the *Springfield, Kennet,* and Center Associations, be thankfully Recived, and recognized as auxiliaries to this Society.

Resolved that we duly appreciate the Sympathy & Joint Assistance of our sisters in the work of benevolence; that we regard it as auspicious to the success of our cause, that we are more and more recieving the assistance and sympathy of that sex, whose characteristic excellence consists in commiserating distress and in reddily lending a hand of help to soothe the afflictions of the wretched: That we are encouraged to persevere; and dispair not of the hope, that (as in many other cases of the greatest emergency, in which *our* sex has been involved) the turning of that scale which may dicide the fate of Millions, may be a glorious task reserved for female virtue.

Signed on behalf of the Committe

By Zimri Stuart Chairman

In compliance with a clause of the above report, a special committe, consisting of William Reynolds, Zimri Stuart, and James C. Kersey was appointed, whose instructions were, to correct, and prepare the above mentioned female communication, and forward them to the press, for publication.

On motion of Dr. Worth — Resolved the Secretary be instructed to inform the several Branches that the contingencies of this Association require an augmentation of the funds; and that a small pecuniary aid from them would be thankfully Received.

The Committee to whom was referd the questions from Springfield, reccommended their rejection, in which the house concured.

Vestal Coffin Reported that $5.00 of the money remaining in his hands at last meeting, had been expended, in removing Staffords Negros to Hayti where upon he was ordered to hand the ballance, which was $18.70, into the hands of the treasurer of the Association, with instructions to pay what yet remains unpaid, towards removing the negros afforesaid, as soon as the ammount can be ascertained.

The treasurer Reported that the value of the treasury was: notes on interest 11 month $39.31. cash on hand $6.17½ — aggregate $45.48½ —

On motion of General Gray — Resolved, *Unanimously*, that the thanks of this Association be presented to President Moses Swaim, for the Message presented on yesterday, allso for the able and independent manner in which he has discharged the duties of the chair during the present Session.

On motion of Thomas T. Hunt — Resolved *Unanimously* that the thanks of this Association be presented to the citizens of this vicinity for their prompt and friendly attention to the members of this association during the present Session.

On motion the House adjourned, to meet again at Uharee Meeting House in Randolph County on the Second friday in March next at 11 O'clock A. M.

September 10 1826 *William Swaim Sec'y*

XXVIII

Uharee Meeting House Randolph City —
March 9th 1827

The General Association of the Manumission Society of N. Carolina met according to adjournment. The returns from the several branches being called for by the president, Moses Swaim Esqr, appeared as follows

Center
- Moses Swaim
- Benjamin Swaim
- Joshua Stanly †
- Himelaus Mendenhall
- David Worth
- William Reynolds †
- John Hodgin †
- Jonathan Hodgin †

New Garden

Deep River
- John Gorden †
- Aaron Coffin
- Zimri Stuart
- Samuel Nixon
- Paris Wheeler †

Caraway
- John Henly Esqr
- Phineas Nixon Junr.
- Nixon Henly

Richland Creek
- John Beals †
- James C Kersey
- Curtis Otwell †
- James Newman
- Robert W Hodson
- Caleb Beals †
- John Frasier †
- Obed Anthony-
- William Kersey-

Springfield
- Alexander Gray-
- John Welborne †
- Nathan Hunt
- Eli Hayworth
- Samuel Hunt †
- Thomas T Hunt
- Allen U. Tomlinson

Deep Creek
- Thomas Carter
- Azarah Davis †

Trotters Creek
- Clark Hill †
- Alfred Hadley
- John Hadley

Cane Creek
- Robert Woody
- Joseph Marshall
- Thomas Stafford
- Jacob Hinshaw

James Town
- Richard Mendenhall
- Aaron Rich †
- John Millis †
- Jonathan Gardner †
- Stephen Gardner †
- John Howel †
- George D. Mendenhall †
- Jeddiah Wright †

Greensborough

Emanuel
- Philip Copple †
- Benjamin Sanders †
- Charles Hoover
- David Moffit
- Thomas Tomlinson
- Phelix Hoover †
- Valentine Hoover †
- David Mock Esqr. †

Ebenezer

Rocky River
- Samuel Hocket
- Benjamin Vestal

Uharee
- William Hanner
- Micajah Hill †
- Elijah Hardister
- Eleazar Laughlin †
- Isaiah Hicks †
- Samuel Cranford †
- Jesse Hill †
- Beverly Serrat †
- Lewis Johnson
- Aaron Hill
- Henry Newby
- Henry B Hill

Newberry

Tabernacle
- James Laughlin †
- Thomas Pierce †
- William Bond †
- Joseph Hoover esqr
- Jeremiah Cooper †
- John Cooper
- Lewis Jones Junr.
- Thomas Jones †
- Henry Young †
- Lewis Jones (sen)
- Henry Young (Junr)
- David White

New Salem
- Dougan Clark
- John Hinshaw
- Absalem Dennis

Union
- Aaron Stalker
- David McCracken
- Tristram Cogshal

Bethel
Nicholas Barker
Samuel Stewart
Dover
William Bowman
William Bundrane
Isaac Stanly
Muirs Chapel
Joseph Iddings
Michael Wilson
Belew's Creek
William Gibson
John Jones
Shedric Morris
Westfield
William Pierce
Jacob L Poff
Galen McKinny
Nathans Beals Jnr.
Sandy Creek
Maries Creek
Shiloh
Hunting Creek
Prospect
Reedy Fork
Brush Creek
Hillsborough
Beans shoals
Rehoboth
Mount Olivet
Elisha Cox
Jersey Settlement
Isaac Kinney
South Fork
Joshua Lindley
Jonathan Lindley
Loves Creek
Joshua Newlin
George Smith
Providence
Obediah Elliott
John Hocket
Edward Chamness
Hiram Lamb

The president informed the house that he had prepared a written communication, which on motion of Richard Mendenhall was introduced and read; and ordered to lie on the Table.

Dougan Clarke Introduced to the table an address from the New Salem benevolent Association of Females; which was read and order to lie on the table.

On motion of Zimri Stuart sd. Female benevolent Association of New Salem was recognized as auxiliary to the Manumission Society of North Carolina.

Received an address from the Center Female Benevolent Society which was read and ordered to lie on the table — Also an address from the James Town female benevolent Association which was disposed of in the same manner.

On motion of David Worth the female communications on the table were refered to a select committe, consisting of Phineas Nixon, Zimri Stuart, and Benjamin Swaim; who were instructed to take the same under consideration and report on tomorrow.

On motion of General Gray, a select committee was appointed, consisting of Phineas Nixon, John Hinshaw, and Henry B Hill, for the purpose of receiving Contributions from the Branches, and Individuals in aid of the funds.

On motion of Richard Mendenhall the communication from the chair was refered to a select committee consisting of Richard Mendenhall, General Gray, and Dr Worth, with Instructions to report thereon tomorrow.

Richard Mendenhall asked and obtained leave to read the speech of Mr. Secretary Clay before the late annual Meeting of the American Colonization Society.

On motion of Richard Mendenhall a committe, consisting of two members from each branch, was appointed for the purpose of resusitating the old branches and forming new ones — the appointment of Said committee resulted as follows:

New Garden — Isaac White, William Stanly Jr
Center — David Worth, Benjamin Swain
Deep River — John Gorden, Zimri Stuart
Caraway — Phineas Nixon, John Henly Esqr
Springfield — General Gray, Thomas T Hunt and A. W. Tomlinson
Deep Creek — William Dobbins, Thomas Carter
Trotters Creek — Alfred Hadly, William Hill
Cane Creek — Jeremiah Picket, John Stafford
James Town — Richard Mendenhall, John Millis
Richland Creek — James C Kersey, Robert W Hodson
Emanuel — Charles Hoover, Peter Owen
Ebenezer — James Needham, John Parker
Rocky River — Benjamin Vestal, Samuel Hocket
Uharee — Dr William Hanner, Henry B Hill, Micajah Hill
† Newberry — Joseph Aydelot, Zacheas Coffin

Tabernacle — John Hulin, Thomas Pierce
New Salem — Dougan Clark, John Coffin
Union — Aaron Statler, Tristram Cogshal
Bethel — Abram Hanner, Harmon Allen
Dover — Charles Pigeon, William Bundrane
Muirs Chapel — George Swain, Michael Wilson
Belews Creek — David Lindville, Samuel Clark, Aaron Coffin
Providence — Obediah Elliot, John Hocket
Westfield — Nathan Beals, Joseph V. Grigg Esqr
Sandy Creek — Hezekiah Clark, Charles Duncan Esqr
Mary's Creek — John Newlin, John Woody
Muddy Creek — Christopher Swaim Paul Folgier
Shiloh — William Davis, Isaac Idle
Hunting Creek — William Talbot, Thomas Johnson
Prospect — Eli Burton, Lytle Johnson
Reedy Fork — Enoch Macy Thomas Hunt
Brush Creek — Alexander Thomas, Jacob Idle
Hillsborough — William Picket, Abel Johnson
Greensborough — William Adams, T Early Strange
Forbus's Creek — James Adams Joseph Carter
Rehoboth — James Millis, William Millis
Mount Olivet — John Hendrix, Enoch Spinks
Jersey Settlement — John P. Winders Isaac Kinney
South Fork — Joshua Lindley, Joshua Hadley
Loves Creek — Elisha Siler, George Smith

The following resolution was introduced by Joseph Marshal, and ordered to lie on the table for consideration untill tomorrow — Resolved that this Association recommend to the members of the manumission Society of this State, that they apply themselves individually to their respective occupations on the fifth day of July next and appropriate their earnings to the use of the Manu Society

Mosses Swain tendered his resignation of the office of president of the Society which the house accepted and put in nomination, David Worth, Richard Mendenhall, and Benjamin Swain, from which to elect a president on tomorrow morning.

On motion of Henry B Hill a committe, consisting of Thomas T Hunt, Allen U Tomlinson, and William Swain, was apointed to superintend the balloting.

The House adjourned till tomorrow morning 9 O'clock.

Saturday March the 10th 1827 The House met according to adjournment.

The committe to whom was refered the consideration of the presidents Message reported as follows — That they have had the same under consideration; and recommend that it be refered to a committee for the purpose of correcting and transcribing; and that It be sent, together with a brief transcript of the minutes of this Association, to the Editor of the Greensborough "patriot" for publication. — Your committee further recommend that so much of the said communication as relates to sending a delegation to the American convention, be laid over for consideration till the next Session, for consideration.

Respectfully submitted Richd. Mendenhall (chairman).

The bord of managers produced the following several reports which were considered seperately, and adopted (Viz)

The bord of managers to whom was refered a memorial to congress praying that a law be passed prohibiting the trafic in slaves between the different States in the Union Respectfully Report — that they have examined and corrected said memorial, and transmitted it to Romulous M Sanders, one of our representatives in Congress, with a request that he should submit it to their consideration — In answer to which this board have recived a letter from Mr Sanders, which is herwith submitted.

Jonathan Parker (Chairman)

The board of managers who were instructed to draft an adress to the several Grand juries in this state report that they have performed the duties enjoined on them so far as relates to drafting the address and placing it in the hands of the printer: But that no further proceedings have taken place thereon.

Jonathan Parker

The board of managers who were instructed to prepare and issue a prospectus of a monthly publication to be under the control of the Society: Report; that in their opinion it will be inadvisable, taking into consideration the present state of the fund — They therefore recommend that the project, for the present, be abandoned.

Jonathan Parker

The board of managers from a belief that it would be acceptable to this Association, to have a representative in the American convention, appointed Benjamin Swaim to attend sd. convention as a delegate from this Association — he accordingly attended; and has made a report to this bord of the several subjects which came before that body; which is herewith Submitted. This bord beg leave to sudjest the propriety of remunerating him for his expenses while he remained in baltimore waiting on sd. Convention.

Jonathan Parker *Chairman*

The board of managers then tendered their resignation which was accepted; and they of course absolved from all further duties as bord of managers.

On motion of Dr Worth a committee consisting of Richard Mendenhall, Himelaus Mendenhall, and Charles Hoover, was appointed for the purpose of fixing upon a suitable compensation to be allowed Benjamin Swain for the expenses incured during his Mission to the North.

On motion of Benjamin Swaim a select committee consisting of David Worth, Moses Swaim, and William Swaim, was appointed with instructions to correct and transcribe the presidents Message and transmit the same together with a brief extract from the minutes, for publication in the Greensborough Patriot.

The committee to whom was refered the female addresses report; that having had the same under consideration, they concieve them to be worthy of notice and propose that they be filed and preserved in the Secretary's office. In respect to the suggestion imbraced in one of them, proposing the awarding of premiums to incourage writers on the subject of Slavery, your

committee are of opinion that it would not be expedient. Your committee further ask leave to submit the following — Resolved, that through our president, the thanks of this society be presented to the female Associations of *Center, Jamestown,* and *New Salem,* for their several appropriate address's with information to that of New Salem, that the same is thankfully recived and recognized as auxiliary to this Society: And that the frequent accession of Female Associations, and their assistance in the work of benevolence is a source of much gratification to this body.

Phineas Nixon Junr. *Chairman*

On motion of Richard Mendenhall the above Report was amended by refering the sd. addresses to the committe apointed on the president's Message &c. with permission to publish such extracts from them as they may think proper.

The president, after making a few very appropriate and impressive remarks relative to the prospects of the society and the advancement of moral principle, left the chair, regretted by all who were present.

On motion of Richard Mendenhall the house proceeded to ballot for another; — from the report of the balloting committee it appeared that neither of those in nomination had received a majority of the whole — on a second baloting the committee reported the election of Benjamin Swaim, by a majority of 12 votes over Dr Worth — the poles were Worth 24 — Swaim 36 —

The committee appointed to recieve contributions in aid of the funds produced the following report — Your committee have received — from Rocky River branch $1.50 — from Tabernacle $1.50 — from Union $3.12½ — from New-Salem $3.05 — from Trotters Creek $3.30 — from Jersey settlement $2.00 — from Dover $2.50 — from Uharee $2.90 — from Caraway $4.00 — from Cane Creek $1.50 — from the Female benevolent Society of New Salem $2.58¾ — from Center $5.00 — from providence $2.00 — from William Gibson of Stokes County $0.50 — from Eunice Gibson $0.50 — from Joshua Lindley of Chatham County $0.75 — Whole amount recived $36.71 cts.

Phineas Nixon Jr Chairman

On motion resolved that the thanks of this Association be presented to the above named Societies and Individuals for their liberal donations, and contributions — and that the same be immediately placed in the hands of Richard Mendenhall and conveyed by him to The Treasurer —

On motion of Phineas Nixon a select committee consisting of Nathan Hunt, General Gray, and Isaac Kinney — who were instructed to put in nomination five persons for a bord of managers and report when complied with.

The committe appointed to make an allowance to Benjamin Swaim for the expenses he incured during his Mission to the American convention, Report that $12.00 would be an adequate remuneration — The house adopted the report and Instructed the Sd. Swaim to call upon the treasurer for sd. Remuneration.

The committe appointed to make out a catelogue of Nominees for the Board of Managers; Reported the names of Richard Mendenhall, Zimri Stuart, Thomas T Hunt, David Worth, and Phineas Nixon, Juniore; in which Report the House concured.

The Resolution relative to appropriating the earnings of the fifth of July Next, to the use of the Manumission Society, was called up and after considerable discussion was indefinitely posponed.

On motion of Richard Mendenhall the Name of Aaron Coffin was added to the list of the board of managers.

On motion of General Gray; Resolved, That the board of managers be instructed to draft a memorial to be laid before the next General Assembly, praying that a law be passed to prohibit the introduction of slaves from other states into this; particularly by speculators; and that the board be requested to obtain as many signers as possible to such memorial, and make report thereof to the next meeting of this Association.

On motion of Robert W. Hodson — Resolved that this Association remember with pleasure, the unremitted exertions of our worthy Friend Vestal Coffin, in the promotion of the objects of this Society; and that we duly appreciate the loss sustained by his death, to Society, and to the cause of humanity.

On motion of Nathan Hunt, amended by David Worth, a committee consisting of Mosses Swain and William Reynolds was appointed to prepare an essay of a memorial to the Next Session of Congress — praying for the abolition of Slavery in the district of columbia — and for the patronage of the General Government to be extended to the colonization Society.

On motion of General Gray — Resolved that the thanks of this Association be presented to the inhabitants of this Neighbourhood for their hospitality and prompt attention to the members of this Association during the present Session.

On motion of Phineas Nixon — Resolved that the thanks of this Association be presented to Mosses Swaim Esqr. for the able, dignified, and impartial manner in which he has discharged the duties of president of this society during his continuance in office.

On motion of Henry B Hill — Resolved that the attention of females in our Association, as spectators, gives life and energy to our exertions, and tends to improve their own minds; and that the thanks of this Association be presented to those well conducted females for thir faithful attendance on the present Session.

On Motion of Isaac Kinney Esqr. a committee, consisting of Moses Swaim Esqr, Richard Mendenhall and Dr Worth, was appointed to attend the next meeting of the Jersey Settlement Branch, for the purpose of explaining the objects of the Association.

On motion of Dr Worth a committee consisting of Dr Worth, General Gray, and Richard Mendenhall, to corespond With Nancy Moore, for the purpose of obtaining information, relative to certain slaves belong to the said Nancy, which, it is understood she wishes to manumit, and *colonize,* or at least to send them to free States —

On motion of Moses Swaim the House adjourned to Meet at Springfield Meeting House in Guilford County on the Second friday in Septtember next at 10 o'clock A. M.

William Swaim Sec'y

March 10th 1827

XXIX

Springfield Meeting house Guilford N. C.
September 14th. 1827

The General Association of the Manumission Society of North Carolina, convened according to adjournment. The returns from the different branch Societies being called for appeared as follows —

Center 111
- Benjamin Swaim
- Moses Swaim
- David Worth
- William Reynolds
- Jonathan Newman
- Joshua Stanley-
- Himelaus Mendenhall

New Garden .....

Deep River .....
- John Gorden
- Zimri Stuart
- Samuel Nixon

Caraway .....
- Nixon Henley-
- John Henley- Esqr.
- Phineas Nixon junr.

Richland Creek
- James Newman-
- Obed Anthony
- James C Kersey
- Kirtis Otwell
- John Frazier
- John Saferight
- Robert W. Hodson
- John Frazier Junr.
- Cale Beals

Springfield
- Nathan Hunt
- Thomas T. Hunt
- Eli Hayworth
- Allen U Tomlinson
- Samuel Hunt
- John Welborne

Deep Creek

Trotters Creek
- Nathan Picket
- Peter Brown

Cane Creek
- James Woody
- Libni Moffit
- William Allen
- John Dickson
- Robert Woody

Jamestown
- Richard Mendenhall
- Stephen G. Mendenhall
- David Beard

Emanuel
- Benjamin Kendle
- Thomas Tomlinson
- Job Moffit
- Charles Hoover
- David Moffit

Ebenezer
Rocky River
    James Lindley
    Samuel Hocket
Uharee
Newberry
    Eleazar Hunt
Tabernacle
    James Laughlin
    Joseph Hoover
    Jeremiah Mendenhall
    William Boid
    David White
    Jeremiah Johnson
    Jonathan Serat
    Lewis Jones Junr.
New Salem
    William Denniss
    Dougan Clark
    Abraham Elliot
Union
    Tristram Cogshal
    Aaron Stalker
    Eliab Jackson
Bethel
    Simon Barker
    John Barker *Jnr*
Dover
Muirs Chapel
    Jeremiah Dodson
    Joseph Edings
    Michael Wilson
Belews Creek
    Aaron Coffin
    William Gibson
Westfield
Sandy Creek
Mary's Creek
Shiloh
    Aaron Davis
    William Davis
    John Hayworth
    John Davis
Hunting Creek
    Gideon Johnson
Prospect
Reedy-Fork
    Henry White
    Thomas Hunt
Brush Creek
Hillsborough
Greensborough
    T. Early Strange
Beans Shoals
Rehoboth
    William Kirkman
Mount Olivet
    John Hendrix
    William Cox
Jersey Settlement
    Isaac Kinney Esqr.
South Fork
    Jonathan Lindly
    Joshua Lindley
Loves Creek
Providence
    Aaron Reynolds
    Obadiah Elliott
    Nathan Elliott
Gethsemane
Forbus's Creek

The president informed the house that he had prepared an official communication, which, on motion of Richard Mendenhal, was introduced and read.

On motion of T. Early Strange the Journal of last meeting was read.

The committee appointed at last meeting of the Association to attend a meeting of the "Jersey Settlement branch" in Lexington, report "no progress."

On motion of David Worth the communication from the chair was refered to a select committe consisting of T. Early Strange, Isaac Kinney, and Moses Swain, with instructions to report thereon tomorrow.

On motion of David Worth, the subject of sending a delegation to the next American Convention was refered to the same committee.

On motion of Richard Mendenhall, a committee consisting of John Welborn, Aaron Stalker and Joshua Lindy, to receive contributions and donations, with instructions to report thereon tomorrow.

Recived a communication from each of the female Associations of Jamestown and Center, which were refered to a committee consisting of William Reynolds William Dennis, and Isaac Kinney —

Received a communication from Aaron Davis, a memorial from New Salem, and a refference from Muir's Chapel, which were laid on the table, subject to the call of any member.

On motion of Aaron Coffin a select committee consisting of David Worth, Zimri Stuart, and Richard Mendenhall, was appointed to examine the rules of order, make such alterations as they may think proper, and report on tomorrow.

Moses Swaim introduced a series of resolutions which were intend to explain the views of this society respecting the schemes of the colonization Society. These resolutions were ordered to lie on the table subject to the call of any member.

On motion of Moses Swaim, a committee consisting of John Henly Esqr. and Tristram Cogshall, was appointed to take into

consideration the memorial from new Salem, praying for a disolution of the committee appointed at last meeting, to further the views of the society, and the appointment of a smaller one.

On motion of richard Mendenhall a committee of claims, was appointed consisting of *Jeremiah Dodson,* Joshua Stanley, and John Gorden.

On motion of James C. Kersey the Treasurer produced his report, from which it appears the $ cents are out on interest, and $ its on hand

On motion adjourned to meet again on tomorrow morning at half past 9 O'clock.

Saturday March the 15th. The house met according to adjournment.

The committee to whom was refered the memorial from New Salem, reported favourably to granting the prayer of the Memorialists — which report, after considerable discussion, the house rejected.

The committe to whom was refered the presidents Message produced the following report which was adopted

"Your committe to whom was refered the communication from the Chair, haveing had the same under consideration respectfully report

1st. On the Subject of sending a delegation to the American convention — your committee regret that the funds at present under the controul of the Society are so limited as to deter them from recommending the measure. Should the Association be of the same opinion, the only alternative left to continue the friendly intercourse allready opened with that venerable Institution, will be to send them a written communication: And for this purpose we would reccommend the appointment of a committee of three."

A committee was accordingly appointed consisting of Richard Mendenhall Zimri Stuart and Tubal E. Strange.

"On the subject of enquiring into, and making the slave laws better understood by the people generally, your committee are of opinion, that free enquiry into the laws and civil polity,

of a free Country, is no less the duty than the privilege of its citizens — they would therefore recommend the appointment of a committee consisting of three discrete persons, to continue during the pleasure of the Society — and that they be aided in their enquiries by the appropriation of such sums of money, either by the Association or the bord of Managers, as the nature of their labours may require.

The committee was accordingly appointed consis- of Moses Swaim, Zimri Stuart, and Aaron Coffin.

3rd With regard to an experiment on the Education of Coloured Children, your committee think, those allready tried have sufficiently tested their susceptibility of much improvement in this way — and that in their Judgement it is inexpedient at present to go into the measure further than to recommend to the several branches to procure their introduction into sabbath schools, where such may be located in their neighbourhood, and the consent of masters can be obtained.

4th Your committee are of opinion that the desimination of such productions as tend to show the comparative value of *free* and *Slave* labour, might have a good effect, they therefore recommend that this be confided to the bord of managers — to procure, and destribute, by such means as they may think most expedient, tracts, essays &c. to any extent they may think proper.

5th Reducing the ratio of representation, your committe believe would not be expedient at this time.

6th In fine, it is recommended that the communication entire be published in the "Patriot," and through that medium its publication requested in all the news papers printed in the state.

Respectfully Submitted

T. Early Strange Charman

"The Bord of managers agree to report that they have met several times since the last report was made — that not much business of importance came before them — That agreeably to direction of the Association, they procured a number of copies to be printed, of a memorial to our next Legislature, to be dis-

tributed and circulated in the several counties in the state, to procure signers, soliciting their attention to the subject of preventing the further introduction of slaves into the state.

Thomas T. Hunt *Charman*

The committee appointed at last meeting to prepare an essay of a memorial to the next Congress produced the following, which was approved —

"To the Honourable, the Senate and house of representatives of the United States in Congress Assembled —

The Memorial of the Manumission Society of North Carolina, respectfully praying, sheweth

That the system of *African Slavery,* though not to be justified on any principle of fundamental law, has, through a kind of tacit acquiescance, grown up and attained a magnitude from which it sheds an unhappy influence on the otherwise fair character of our political institutions.

That in North Carolina, its malign influence on the Agricultural Interest, on the public morals, and on the Simplicity of her republican virtues, is felt and deplored by an important portion of her citizens.

That its continuance, should it produce no effect more immediately alarming, must remain a clog to our prosperity, and a blemish upon our political character untill it shall be removed by the gentle hand of Legislation — Do we ask the Legislature of the State to interpose, we may be told in answer,

That the evil, if it be one, is not of such magnitude as to clain Legislative attention even in that district to which congress has the exclusive power of giving Laws,

That the toleration of Slavery and the Slave Trade in the district of Columbia, give strength and vigor to the system throughout the Union, wherever it obtains; and render it more invulnerable through the medium of State Legislation,

That an example so truly worthy those principles which the nation has promulgated to the world, as the abolition of slavery in the district of Columbia would be, could not fail to have a corresponding effect on the several State Legislatures: — as it

must stimulate that pride of *National* Character so essential in a free Government, and of which we believe North Carolina is far from being destitute

We therefore pray —

That you will take this subject — important to us, and to future ages — with all its consequences, of which, in a memorial, we can enumerate but few — into your serious consideration, and so provide by law that slavery may shortly cease to exist in the District of Columbia.

Your memorialists further show

That the formation of the American Society for Colonizing the free people of Colour &C. has had an effect to arouse public attention to the subject of Slavery in this Southern Country —: A more rigid enquiry has been instituted into its character and tendencies where it is tolerated by the laws of a republic, in a free country —

That many of our citizens are turning from it with disgust, and anxiously looking after means whereby-they-may-free themselves and their Country of a burden, which has become oppressive to themselves, and may become intolerable to posterity, in a way that shall be just to the slave and safe to the master

That the transportation of the former to the colony allready planted on the western coast of Africa, offers at present the only consolatory hope of effecting this desirable object to an extent that shall be commensurate to the exegencies of the Nation

That this hope must prove evanescent, should the interests of the colony — be much longer left dependant on that private munificence which planted, and has hitherto, measurably sustained it.

They therefore further pray —

That you will allso consider whether this project of the *American Colonization Society* is not one worthy of the Nation's patronage; and that so far as your constitutional power extends — to provide for the General welfare, you will prepare

the means for transporting to the said Colony — such persons of the African race as are, or may become free in the United States, under such regulations as you in your wisdom may devise. And

That the Government of the United States may exist unshaken by faction or insurrection; And that it may decend as pure in practice as it is in theory — Indisolubly united to all succeeding time, your memorialists will ever pray —"

On motion of Dr. Worth The Secretary was ordered to transcribe the above memorial and place it in the hands of Augustine H. Shepperd.

The committee appointed on yesterday upon the rules of order report that in their opinion it would be inexpedient to make any alteration; in which report the house concured.

The committee to whom was refered the female addresses produced the following report which the house adopted

"The committee appointed to take into consideration the adresses from the female Societies agree to report,

That having duly considered the same, they beg leave to recommend the adoption of the following resolutions

1st. That the Association continue most highly to appreciate the labours of their female friends, and to derive the greatest pleasure and consolation from their addresses.

2nd. Resolved that the thanks of the Association be tendered to the Jamestown Female Branch, and to the feemale Association, for their respective addresses; and to the Center Female Branch for its verry liberal donation —

3rd. Resolved that these addresses are worthy publication; and that the secretary be instructed to file them in his office for that purpose.

Signed by order of the committe

William Reynolds —

The committee of claims report favourable to refunding to Wm Swaim $2.00 which he has heretofore expended for printing. In which report the house concured.

On motion of James C. Kersey — the Name of Jeremiah Dodson was added to the committee for Muirs Chapel.

On motion of William Reynolds it was made the duty of the committees appointed to resusitate and establish branches of this Association to report their progress to each meeting.

On motion of Thomas T Hunt, the resolutions submitted on yesterday by Moses Swaim, and laid on the table were called up and adopted as follows:

Whereas, this Association is aware that the views and object of the American Colonization society — are variously appreciated by many of our fellow citizens: while some have regarded it as founded on, and acting under the influence of principles bearing no affinity to those of the Manumission Society of N. Carolina, others have thought them so congenial in sentiment that the latter might as well merge into the Colonization cause. Therefore, in justice to ourselves, and to that excellent institution be it,

Resolved, 1st. That it is our duty to hold up slavery to the view of our fellow citizens as the greatest *moral* and *political* evil: — Being derogatory to the Christian *name* and Character, as it is violatory of its precepts; And its tendency dangerous to the existance of our free institutions, as it is adverse to their fundamental principles.

Resolved 2nd That we duly appreciate the benefits derived to individual members of our political Union through the labours of those Benevolent Societies, whose single efforts have been directed to the abolition of Slavery in their respective States without the aid of foreign colonization.

Resolved 3rd That the existance of the Colonization Society, so far from superseeding the necissity of our labours, impose on us additional motive and obligation to urge home the doctrines of gradual Emancipation; as this must necessarily precede their colonization.

Resolved 4th That while the condition of a *free Coloured population* holding a rank — not properly among us, but degraded low beneath us — claim our sympathy — and commisseration — The condition of a brutalized slave population, — forbiden, in some of the states, a knowlede of letters, collected like cattle for the market, even in the Metropolis, under the eye

of the national Government — cover us with shame for the Just reproach to which these things subject us; and impress us with apprehensions of the fearful chastisement to which guilt exposes a nation.

Resolved 5th That although much has been done by individual states, to remove, or mitigate the evil as it effected themselves — yet we hail the existance of the *American* Colonization Society, as a means eminently calculated to remove the *whole* of it from the nation, when it shall have attained that degree of national patronage to which its exalted object so well intitles it.

Resolved 6th That we will not cease to petition congress to aid that institution with the strength and resources of the Nation. And

Resolved 7th That the Treasurer be ordered to foward, from the funds of this Society the Sum of $20.00 as a small donation to the Colonization Society —, together with a coppy of these resolutions.

The committe appointed to receive donations report that they have received from the Center female Society $5.00 — from Belew's Creek branch $2.00 — From Loves Creek $1.10 — From tabernacle $1.20 — From Jamestown $1.50 — From Richland Creek $4.00 — Total $15.70 — which sum was placed in the hands of Richard Mendenhall, with instructions to convey it to the hands of the treasurer.

On motion of Richard Mendenhall the sum of six Dollars was ordered to be paid into the hands of the president and Secretaries for the purpose of defraying such contingent expenses as they may incur in consequence of their office.

On motion of Allen U Tomlinson — Resolved that the thanks of this Association be presented to the president for the able and impartial manner in which he has performed the duties of the chair during the present Session.

On motion of Phineas Nixon Junr. — Resolved that the thanks of this Association be presented to the citizens of this neighbourhood for their kind attention to the members of this Association during the present Session.

On motion the house adjourned to meet again at Muirs Chapel Meeting House in Guilford County on the Second Friday in September next at 11 o'clock A. M. —

Sept 15th 1827 *Wm. Swaim Secretary*

XXX

Muirs Chapel Meeting-house
Guilford March 14th 1828

The General Association of the Manumission Society of N Carolina Convened according to adjournment; the returns from the several Branches being called for appeared as follows:

Center ..... Center
- Joshua Stanly
- Benjamin Swaim
- David Worth
- William Reynold

New Garden ... New Garden
- Lewis A Hobbs
- Pleasant Unthank
- Charles H More

Deep River ..... Jamestown
- Samuel Nixon
- Zimri Stuart

Caraway ..... Ashborough
- John Henly Esqr
- John Clark
- Nixon Henly

Richland Creek .. Jamestown
- Ezrah Kersey
- Robert W. Hodson
- William Kersey
- John Frazier
- John Beals
- Caleb Beals
- James C Kersey
- John Newman

Springfield ..... Hunts Store
- Alexander Gray
- Nathan Hunt
- Benjamin Milican
- William Unthank
- Thomas T. Hunt
- Allen U. Tomlinson

Deep Creek ..... Rockford
- Levi Dobbins
- Daniel Dobins

Trotters Creek ..... Longs
- William Hill

Cane Creek
- John Atkinson
- William Allen
- Job Stout

Jamestown ..... Jamestown
- Richard Mendenhall
- Nathan Mendenhall

Emanuel ..... Lexington

Ebenezer ..... Center
- John Parker
- Lewis Walton
- Thomas Gosset

Rocky River
Joseph Hill
Thomas Pugh
Uharee ..... Hills Store
Henry B Hill
Thomas Henly
William Burney
Newberry ..... Newgarden
Eleazar Hunt
Joseph Aydelott
Milton Hunt
Tabernacle ..... Grays Store
New Salem
James Dieks
Union
John Stalker
Leavell Farlough
William Carter
Eliab Jackson
Bethel
Dover
Isaac Gurley
Joseph Rich
Muirs Chapel ... Newgarden
George Swaim
Reuben Swain
Joseph Iddings
Richard Hubbard
Belew's Creek .. Germantown
Aaron Coffin
Westfield ..... Mount Airy
Nathan Beals
Sandy Creek
Mary's Creek
Shiloh
Hunting Creek . Hamptonville
Joseph Patterson
Prospect
Reedy Fork
Henry White
Nathan Kennedy
Thomas Hunt
Brush Creek
Hillsborough .. Hillsborough
Greensborough Greensborough
Beans Shoals
Rehoboth
Mount Olivet
Thomas Macon
Jersey Settlement . Lexington
Isaac Kinney
South Fork
Aaron Lindley
James Lindley
Loves Creek
Providence
Aaaron Reynolds
William Morgan
Gethsemane
Forbuses Creek
Zoar ..... Ashborough
Samuel Clark
Benjamin Milican

The president informed the House that he had prepared an official communication which was introduced, read, and refered to a committee, consisting of William Reynolds, Isaac Kinney, John Henly, and Richard Mendenhall, with instructions to report thereon tomorrow.

Recieved an address from each of the Female Societies of Springfield, Kennett and N Salem which were refered to a select committee consisting of John Parker, Benjamin Milican, and John Stalker.

On motion of Allen U. Tomlinson, a committee consisting of George Swain, Richard Mendenhall and Joseph Aydelotte, was appointed to recieve donations and contributions, and report on tomorrow.

On motion of Richard Mendenhall a select committee, consisting of Robert W. Hodson, John Clark, and Nixon Henly, was appointed to recieve reports from the several committees appointed meeting before last for the purpose of resuscitating old Branches and forming New ones — with instructions to report tomorrow.

On motion of Richard Mendenhall, a committe consisting of Richard Mendenhall, Aaron Coffin Thomas T. Hunt, Joshua Stanly, and Nathan Hunt, was appointed, with instructions to ascertain whether six persons can be found willing to attend to the business of resuscitating the old branches and forming new ones, and report thereon tomorrow.

On motion of Henry B. Hill, a committee was appointed consisting of Nathan Hunt, Nixon Henly John Stalker, Aaron Reynolds and Samuel Clark, with instructions to put in nomination two or more persons for each department of the Society, from which, for the Association to elect its officers on tomorrow Morning.

On motion of Thomas T. Hunt The Treasurer's report was refered to the committee appointed to recieve donations.

On motion of Nathan Mendenhall the same committee was instructed to ascertain the ammount due to the officers of the Society for services and expenditures.

On motion of Henry B. Hill, a balloting committe was appointed consisting of Zimri Stuart and James C. Kersey, with instructions to wait on the Association tomorrow morning.

The Committe to whom was refered to several Female Addresses produced the following report which the House adopted:

"We your committe feel Grateful for the active endeavours of the Several Female Benevolent Societies in promoting the cause we are engaged in, and reccommend that they be filed in the Secretaries office — Respectfully Submitted

Jno. Parker chairman"

The Committee appointed for the purpose of putting in nomination two candidates for each department of the Society — Report the nomination of Benjamin Swaim and Isaac Kinney for president — William Swaim and William Reynolds for Secretary — and Nathan Mendenhall and Zimri Stuart for Treasurer which report was adopted.

The bord of managers produced a partial report, being an address to the citizens of North Carolina, which was read and refered to the bord of managers for correction and publication.

On motion of Richard Mendenhall, the memorial from New Salem on the Subject of educating Coloured Children was refered to a committee consisting of George Swaim and Joshua Stanly with instructions to report thereon tomorrow.

On motion of Nathan Mendenhall the House adjourned to meet on tomorrow morning at 10 O'clock —

Saturday March 15th the house met pursuant to adjournment, and immediately proceeded to the election of officers, which resulted in the Choice of Benjamin Swaim president, William Swaim Secretary, and Zimri Stuart Treasurer.

The committe appointed to hear the report of sundry committees produced the following which was adopted and the committe discharged.

"The Committee to hear the several reports from the committee for spreading the principles and views of the Society and resusitating old branches report as follows:

That we have recieved a partial report from sd. committee which goes to show that there are two new branches formed, and that some endeavours have been used [to] resusitate old ones,

Which we respectfully submit *R. W. Hodson*" ch

The committe to whom was refered the subject of dividing the Society into two divisions and appointing a committee for

the purpose of spreading the principles of the Society more extensively in each, produced their report, which after considerable discussion and some amendments was unanimously adopted as follows:

"The committe to whom was refered the subject of dividing the Society into Eastern and western Ridings have attended to that duty and respectfully Report:

That, in their opinion it would be expedient to divide the Society into Sd. Ridings by a line commencing at the Virginia line and running thence through Wentworth, Greensborough, Ashborough, Lawrencevile, Wadesborough, and thence to the South Carolina Line along the post roads passing the above mentioned places — That, Isaac Kinney, Aaron Coffin, David Mock and Richard Mendenhall, be appointed to attend to the Western Riding, and Jeremiah Dodson, John Parker, and William Swaim to the eastern — That they be instructed to resusitate all the old branches, and form new ones wherever they find it practicable to do so — That they report their services and success, severaly, in detail, to each Association — and that the Association award them a suitable compensation

Respectfully

Richard Mendenhall *ch*

The committe on the presidents Message produced a report which after it was amended and the blanks fill up was adopted as follows:

"The committee to whom was refered the presidents communication having attentively deliberated on the Same ask leave to report — That they find several articles alluded to, to which they deem it important for the Association, at its present Session, to give attention.

We would sudjest expediency of appointing a committee consisting of Benjamin Swaim, William Reynolds, and Dr John Parker, to select the best materials they can command and write, or compile an essay exhibiting the comparative value of free and Slave Labour in Agriculture, Manufacture &C. and that said committee be instructed to furnish sd. essay to the bord of managers, to be disposed of as they (the Bord) may think proper.

Your committee also recommend the appointment of a committee consisting of .... to take into consideration the Queries proposed by the president, to give them a deliberate investigation and to report their answers at length to the next association." (on motion of Richard Mendenhall the appointment of this committee was posponed to next Meeting)

Your committee further recommend that the following Querie be added to the three proposed by the President — to wit — "By what manner can this society best employ its activity toward the attainment of its object?" — and that said Queries, with this addition be sent to the several branches for their answers to the next Association.

In regard to the subject of memorializing, we would sudgest the propriety of importuning the State Legislature, to prevent the further introduction of Slaves into the State of N Carolina and that the bord of Managers prepare the form of a Memorial, and circulate it for the purpose of procuring signatures

In Relation to the minutes of the American convention and the Numbers of the African Observer your committee propose that they be distributed in any direction in which they are likely to do most good.

And further, we find amongst the pamphlets refered to us, one, entitled "a plan for the gradual abolition of Slavery in the U. S. without danger or loss to the Citizens of the South." We suggest that this pamphlet be placed in the hands of a Committee, for inspection, and, if sd committe think it of sufficient importance to sanction the expenses, that they place it in the Hands of the bord of managers in order to be republished and extensively circulated."

(A committe was accordingly appointed consisting of Richard Mendenhall, William Swaim and John Parker)

Your committee in conclusion, recommend that the whole of this excellent communication be forwarded to the Editor of the Greensborough Patriot for publication.

All which is respectfully submitted.

Wm Reynolds chairman.

The Board of managers report favourbly to adding the names of Moses Swaim, Joseph Aydelott, John Gorden and George Swain to their number in which report the house concured.

On motion of Richard Mendenhall The Treasurer elect, Zimri Stuart, was ordered to call on the Ex-treasurer Nathan Mendenhall for the fund of the Society —

On motion of Richard Mendenhall the large committee appointed Meeting before last for the purpose of resusitating the Several branches of the Society was dissolved.

The Committee appointed to receive donations and for other purposes produced the following Report, which was adopted and the committee discharged.

The committe appointed to recieve donations have attended to that duty and respectfully report that they have recieved and paid over to the Treasurer $22.81½ cts together with 50 cts, part of a donation from Newberry on a former occasion, making in all $23.31¼ — In the hands of the treasurer previous to the donations recieved at this meeting in notes and cash on hand $51.00½ — private Donations 1.00, aggragate $75.31½ — Due the Secretary for expenditures $4.00 which, when paid will leave a ballance in the Treasury of $71.31½.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Aydelott, ch.

The Committe to whom was refered the memorial from New Salem report that it wold be propr to refer the Same to the bord of Managers for their consideration.

George Swain, *charman.*

On motion of Henry B Hill — Resolved that the thanks of this Association be presented to Benjamin Swaim for the able dignified manner in which he has discharged the duties of president; — and also, to the citizens of this neighbourhood for their hospitality during the present Session.

On motion of Thomas T. Hunt the House adjourned to meet again at N. Salem Meeting house in Randolph County on the Second friday in September Nex at Eleven O'clock A. M.

XXXI

New Salem Meeting House
September 12, 1828

The General Association of the Manumission Society of N Carolina convened according to adjournment. The returns from the several branches being called for appeared as follows:

Center
- Benjamin Swaim
- Moses Swaim
- John Newman
- Dr David Worth
- Joshua Stanly
- Jonathan Newman
- William Reynolds

Deep River
- Jonathan Beard
- John Gorden
- Samuel Nixon
- Zimri Stuart

Caraway
- John Henly Esqr
- Nixon Henly
- John Clark
- Joseph Coss
- Phineas Nixon Jr

Deep Creek
- Levi Dobbins
- Joshua Dobbins
- Joel Adams
- Jacob Brown

Richland Creek
- Caleb Beals
- William Hodson
- John Frazier
- James C. Kersey
- John Beals
- John Newman
- Stephen Harlon
- R. W. Hodson
- Jesse Hodson
- James Newman

Trotters Creek

Cane Creek
- Peter Stout
- William Weasner
- John Atkinson
- Frederic Stafford
- James Smith
- Robert Woody

Ebeneazer
- John Parker
- Ezekiel Morgan
- John Clark
- Lewis Walton

Rocky River
- Daniel Hill
- Joseph Allen

Uharee
- Dr William Hanner
- Davis Hicks
- Henry B. Hill
- Thomas Henly
- William Burney
- James Elliott
- Thomas Brookshire
- Jesse Henley

Newberry
Tabernacle
- Lewis Jones Jr
- John Harlon
- Ezra Dorsett
- David Brown
- James Laughlin
- Jeremiah Mendenhall
- John Briles

New-Salem
- Howgil Julian
- William Dennis
- Jesse Hinshaw
- Abraham Elliott

Union
- Joseph Welborne
- Thomas McCracken
- Aaron Stalker
- Tristram Cogshal
- Joseph Newlin

Bethel
- Charles Stout
- Enoch Barker

Dover
- Charles Pigeon
- Joseph Rich
- Isaac Stanly

Muirs Chapel
- Reubin Swain
- Joseph Iddings
- John Wilson
- Michael Wilson

Belews Creek
- Moses Coffin
- Aaron Coffin
- Albert L Gibson

Westfield
- Nathan Beals
- Brian D. Gardner

Sandy Creek
Marie's Creek
Shiloh
Hunting Creek
- Jonathan Johnson
- Joseph Patterson

Mount Olivet
- Jeremiah Lellove
- William Cox

South Fork
- Aaron Lindley
- Robert Andrew

Loves Creek
Providence
- Aaron Reynolds
- Nathan Elliott
- Benjamin Beeson
- Isaac Reynolds

Zoar
- John Calbred
- Peter Rich
- Moses Rich
- Samuel Clark
- Benjamin Milican

Springfield
- Nathan Hunt
- Alexander Gray
- John Welborne
- William Unthank
- Benjamin Milikan
- Joseph Hunt
- Thomas T. Hunt
- Allen U. Tomlinson

Lee's Chapel
Joshua Murry
Joseph Latter
Mount Tabour
Isham Neuse
Benjamin Nance
Thomas Jones
Onsel Parish
Jeremiah Cooper
Jonathan Larott
Rocky River
Daniel Hill
Joseph Allen

On motion of Aaron Coffin, Moses Swaim was appointed Secretary Pro. Tem.

The president, Benjamin Swaim informed the House that he had prepared a communication, which, on motion of Nathan Hunt, was produced and read; and on motion of Aaron Coffin, was refered to a committee consisting of William Reynolds, Reuben Swain and Phineas Nixon, with instructions to report thereon tomorrow.

On motion of Thomas T. Hunt, T. Early Strange was admitted a member during the Session.

On motion of Aaron Coffin, the answers from the several branches, to the questions sent them by last Association were refered to a select committee consisting of Henry B. Hill, James C. Kersey, Nixon Henly, Benjamin Milican, and B. Milican Jr with instructions to report thereon tomorrow.

Recieved an Address from each of the female benevolent Societies at Springfield, Kennet and Centre, which were read and refered to the committee on the presidents communication.

The treasurers Report was recieved and refered to a committee of finance consisting of Joshua Stanly, William Dennis, and Levi Dobbins.

Aaron Coffin produced the following report, which, on motion of William Reynolds, was ordered to lie on the table — Report:

On the Second day of August last I attended Westfield branch of the Manumission Society in Surry County. By the account I recieved from their minutes, the number of their members ammounted to forty three. I believe the number present belonging to that Branch was twelve, occasioned by circumstances unavoidable. A considerable number of the mem-

bers are subject to militia duty; and the line dividing surry and Stokes, divides the members of this branch nearly in the same proportions. There was a muster held in Surry, in the vicinity of Westfield on the same day; and one in Stokes not far distant, which prevented many of the members from attending. No other member of the committee attended but myself. But Mahlon Hocket and Robert W. Hodson were in attendence, and admitted as transient members. Many of the members seem desirous to promote the cause, but some of them are too remiss in their efforts. Many are rather discouraged from the slow progress of the principles among thir Neighbours, which operates against more vigorous exertions on their part. By what I could learn, even those who hold Slaves, are many of them not rigid, but admit the impropriety of Slavery. They, however, permit supposed self-interest to overpower conviction. I was induced to form an opinion more favourable to the cause in that section of country than I had heretofore entertained. I furnished them with the necessary documents, and sent the ballance I had with me, to Deep Creek, Hunting Creek, and Bins Shoals. Upon the whole, the meeting was a satisfactory one. Those members with whom I conversed, seemed to wish to promote men to represent them in the General Assembly who are favourable to the principles of emancipation. It was said that two of that description were candidates in surry; and in that neighbourhood they were generally in favour of re-electing the present incumbent to the presidential chair as a subject of great importance to the Union. I recollect but one exception among the members.

On the eleventh instant I attended ebenezar branch which was small, but upon the whole, satisfactory. The members present seemed desirous of promoting the views of the Society; but it seems there is a remissness in the members in attending to thir appointments, too generally among the branches. It is hoped that members will hereafter be more vigilant in attending their branch meetings. The number of members was stated to be forty three.

Jeremiah Dodson produced the following report which was laid on the table.

On the thirteenth of August, I went to Lee's Chapel and formed a branch consisting of eight active, Zealous persons who delegated Joshua Murray and Joseph Latter to represent them in this Association. I attended at many other places, opened the subject upon all proper occasions, and distributed many pamphlets, &C. but sickness prevented me from having as good success as I could have wished.

On motion of Thomas T. Hunt, the above reports were refered to a committee consisting of Thomas T. Hunt, William Redding, and Aaron Stalker.

The Bord of Managers produced the following report which was adopted — Report;

The Bord of Managers take the liberty to report that they have attended to the directions of last meeting. Generally — that they have printed a number, perhaps 1200 copies of an address to the people and put them in circulation — also a number of memorials, which are circulating for the purpose of procuring signatures. We have met frequently, since last association, but have done but little; and although we have but little to felicitate ourselves upon with regard to the progress of our institution, we believe that the cause of emancipation is gaining Ground in this State — and that if members would generally and individually be more assiduous in promulgating our principles, the cause might be advanced with more facility. Indeed there has been recently an acquisition of Some Branches.

The Subject of the permanent location of the General Association has claimed the attention of the Board, the consideration of which they respectfully submit to the Association.

John Gorden chrm.

The committee to whom was refered the presidents communication made the following report;

"Your committe have had the communication from the chair under consideration report as follows:

1 On the Subject of sending delegates to the approaching Session of the American convention, it is devoutly to be de-

sired that we could be represenin that body, as much Good would doubly result from an interchange of sentiments between the friends of emancipation in various parts of the country, by promoting mutual cooperation; but when we take into view the great expense consequent on travelling so far; the low State of our funds and the difficulty of raising more owing to the pressure of the times; we become convinced that we can devote but a small portion of expenditure to this purpose, without retarding other important measures more immediately connected with our object. Your committee are therefore of opinion that it would be inexpedient to send delegates to the American convention, unless suitable members of this society can be found, who, having business to the North can attend the Convention without much expense to the Society —

2nd with regard to the absence of the Secretary, and his request that another be appointed in his stead, we deem it unnecessary to be acted on at this time.

3rd In relation to the insinuation that dangerous abuses are liable to arise from the prospect of compensation held out to the committee appointed at last meeting for promulgating the principles of the Society, your committee are not aware of any such abuses at this time which demand a re-investigation of the subject at present.

4th In regard to memorializing Congress respecting the gradual abolition of Slavery in the district of Columbia, we concieve that it would be highly proper, and recommend that measures be taken at this Session of the Association for preparing a memorial on the subject, and forwarding it to the next Session of Congress.

5th Respecting the Books and pamphlets which have been kindly presented to the Association by the American Convention, your committee recommend that the president communicate the gratitude of the Society to that respectable Society for so acceptable a donation, and also that he endeavour to have them brought on here from Baltimore by the first opportunity he may have, and that he be authorized to draw on the trasurer for money to defraie the expense thereby incured.

6. In relation to the Subject of petitioning the State Legislature, respecting the passage of a law Granting Greater facilities for individual emancipation, though deeply impressed with the importance of the Measure, yet we conceive that the true time for introducing it has probably not arrived.

On the subject of the female Addresses refered to your committee, we would suggest the propriety of respronating their gratitude and consolatory favours of this kind, by the appointment of a committee consisting of three members to draw up an appropriate and encouraging Address, and forward a coppy of it to each of the several female benevolent Societies; and further, that the treasurer be directed to acknowledge the reciept of the Liberal donation from the Kennet Society, and present the thanks of this house for the same.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wm Reynolds chrm.

On motion of T. Early Strange the first paragraph of the above report was amended by the addition of the following — "But your committee recommend a correspondence by letters, if a representative cannot be obtained."

In compliance with the latter clause of the above report, on Motion of Jeremiah Dodson, a committee was appointed consisting of William Reynolds, Reuben Swain and A. U. Tomlinson, to address the several female Societies.

On motion of William Dennis, a certain interogation contained in the latter part of the Female address from N. Salem was refered to the Bord of Managers.

The committee to whom was refered the report of Jeremiah Dodson and Aaron Coffin, produced the following —

Your committee, after examining the services of Dodson and Coffin, agree to allow Aaron Coffin, for four day's service $2.40 To Jeremiah Dodson for 9 day's service $5.00.

Respectfully submitted

T. T. Hunt chairman

Phineas Nixon Tendered His resignation as a member of the bord of Managers, which the House accepted —

On motion of Thomas T. Hunt, a committe was appointed consisting of Phineas Nixon Junr, A. Gray and T. E. Strange, with instructions to make out general answers from those reported by a former committe, to questions sent down to the branches from last Association; and to report to the bord of Managers.

The committee of Finance made the following report which the House adopted.

We the committee of Finance, after examining the report of the treasurer find a ballance of cash, and notes at interest in his hands of $98.99½ — Donations recieved at this time, from the Female Association at Kennet $2.00, Uharee Branch $3.75, Deep River $8.00, Springfield $2.00, Center $9.00, Zoar $2.05, Dover $1.30, Four individuals $5.25. Total $79.39½ — we allso find the Treasury indebted to ballance for former printing $7.00, President's amount $9.95 — Ballance due the Society — $62.39½ — The greater part of this ballance is in notes with interest, and, as has been suggested to us in doubtful hands.

Respectfully Submitted

Joshua Stanly chm.

On motion of William Reynolds, Resolved that the Treasurer be instructed to collect or secure the notes that may be in his hands, and report to next meeting of the Association.

On motion of Jeremiah Dodson, a committe was appointed consisting of David Worth, William Reynolds, and Reuben Swain, with instructions to memorialize the Baptist Association shortly to convene in Jamestown, upon the subject of the views of this Association.

On motion of Phineas Nixon the Secretary was ordered to furnish the Board of Managers with an extract of the minutes of this Association.

On motion of Mosess Swain Esquire, Jeremiah Dodson was directed to attend at, or near new hope Bridge, in Chatham County for the purpose of disseminating the views of this institution, as soon as convenient.

On motion of William Reynolds, a committee was appointed consisting of General Gray, David Mock Esqr. and Thomas T.

Hunt, with instructions to prepare and forward a memorial to the Next Congress.

On motion of Jeremiah Dodson a committee, consisting of Richard Mendenhall, Zimri Stuart and Isaac Odell Esqr. with instructions to draft a memorial to the General Assembly, pray that greater facilities be afforded by law, to individual emancipation.

The House adjourned to meet again at Dover Meeting House in Guilford County on the Second friday in March Next at 11 A. M.

Moses Swaim sec. pro.

XXXII

Dover Meeting-House,
Guilford County — N Carolina, March 13, 1829

The General Association of the Manumission Society of N Carolina convened according to Adjournment. The returns from the several Branches were called for, and appeared as follows.

Centre
- Benjamin Swaim

Deep River
- John Gorden
- Jonathan Beard

Caraway
- Matthew Winslow

Richland Creek
- R. W. Hodson
- Nathan Willitts
- James C. Kersey
- Stanly Frazier

Trotters Creek

Cane Creek
- Jacob Henshaw

Jamestown
- Richard Mendenhall

Emanuel

Ebenezar

Rocky River

Uharee
- Thomas Thornborough
- Aaron Hill
- Thomas Brookshire
- Hill Lester
- Thomas Henly

Newberry
- Joseph Aydelotte

Tabernacle
- Lewis Jones
- James Laughlin

New Salem
Wm. B. Henshaw
Elisha Dennis
Jethro Coffin
Union
Henry Powel
Aaron Stalker
Bethel
Dover
Reuben Starbuk
Joseph Rich
Libni Gardner
Muirs Chapel
Joseph Iddings
Meshach Iddings
Michael Wilson
Belews Creek
Aaron Coffin
Westfield
B. D. Gardner
Mary's Creek
Sandy Creek
Shiloh
Hunting Creek
William Talbot
Prospect
Reedy Fork
Thomas Hunt
Amos Weaver
Brush Creek
Hillsborough
Greensborough
Beans Shoals
Rehoboth
Mount Olivet
Jersey Settlement
South Fork
Joshua Lindly
Loves Creek
New Garden
Pleasant Unthank
Smith Moore
Horace F Cannon
Lewis A. Hobbs
Providence
Wm Chamness
Jesse Reynolds
Isaac Chamness
Gethsemane
Forbuses Creek
Zoar
Peter Rich
Moses Rich
Lees Chapel
Mount Tabour
Deep Creek
John Adams
Joel Adames

Female Societies
Jamestown
Springfield
Kennet
Centre
New Salem
Providence

The President informed the House that He had prepared an official communication, which, on motion of Aaron Coffin, was read and refered to a select committee consisting of Aaron

Coffin, James C. Kersey, Richard Mendenhall, Aaron Stalker and Benjamin Swaim with instructions to report thereon tomorrow.

The Bord of Managers produced a report, which, on motion of Michael Wilson, was refered to a select committee consisting of Thomas thornborough, Lewis Jones, Sen. and Amos Weaver, with instructions to report thereon tomorrow.

On motion of Amos Weaver, a resolution from the Reedy Fork Branch, Respecting a more intimate connexion between this Association and the American Colonization Society, was refered to the committee on the Report of the Bord of Managers.

A Reference from Centre, respecting the duty of the Secretary, in regard to furnishing the extracts &C. to the several Branches, was read and ordered to lie on the table till tomorrow.

On motion of James C. Kersey a committee consisting of J. C. Kersey, and Joseph Iddings, was appointed to act in conjunction with a committee appointed at last meeting on certain Questions, answers &c. and report to next Association.

On motion of Joseph Aydelotte the subject of dissolving the Bord of managers was taken into consideration; and after some discussion, was decided in the affirmative — and the Subject of appointing a new Bord, refered to a select committe consisting of B. Swaim, Wm Swaim and Joshua Lindley, with instructions to report on tomorrow.

On motion of Richard Mendenhall, a committee was appointed consisting of John Gorden, Jethro Coffin, and Aaron Coffin, with instructions to make a distribution, among the Branches, of certain Books, Pamphlets &c, recieved as a donation from the American Convention, and report when complied with.

On motion of Richard Mendenhall the House adjourned till tomorrow morning at ten oclock.

Saturday March 14, 1829, the House met according to adjournment.

The committee to whom was refered the communication from the chair produced the following report which the House adopted:

"Your committee have had the communication from the chair under consideration and respectfully report.

That we recommend the communication entire to be forwarded to the Greensborough patriot for publication.
and that each Branch meeting be furnished with a copy thereof.

With regard to the plan adopted at our last meeting for disseminating our principles more extensively abroad and resusitating the Branches, your committee are of opinion that a continued vigilence of the committee appointed for that purpose, will be highly advantageous in the cause: and your committee beg leave to suggest the propriety of using more efficient means for the extinsive circulation of well written tracts and publications on the subject, as one of the best means of disseminating our principles.

As relates to that portion of the communication which exhibits to our view a late publication on Haytien emigration, we beg leave to suggest to the House the propriety of raising a committee for the examination of the facts relative to Haytien emigration, so far as can be obtained from well authenticated documents, and report on the same to the Bord of Managers.

The treatment which ours, with a large number more of memorials, met with in Congress on the subject of ameliorating the condition of the people of colour in the district of columbia ought to claim the attention of every philanthropist. We are told in the report — to use their own language — "that for the consolation of those whose feelings are excited in their behalf, that in the seperation of their families, their conditions are frequently bettered, and their minds made happier by the exchange — and that their prisons are Kept, from humane considerations, to shield those who are destined for sale, from the inclemency of the weather!" Yet, notwithstanding this unmasked cloven foot, and our profound regret of the contempt paid to the principles of Justice and Humanity at the very focus of our exalted nation, we will not desist our remonstrances nor dispair, but that yet we may find men of principle and honour who shall display their sublime talents and incorruptable integrity for the restoration of trampled rights, and the

extermination of the most felt vice that ever disgraced the race of *Adam.*

Respectfully Submitted

Aaron Coffin, Cm.

The committee, the appointment of which is suggested in the above report, consists of Richard Mendenhall, Thomas Thornborough and Dr. George Swain, with instructions to report as soon as possible.

The committee to whom was refered the report of the Board of managers produced the following report which the House adopted.

"Your committee to whom was refered the report of the Board of managers with their address to the Branches composing the Manumission Society of N. C. together with the resolution from Reedy-Fork for co-operation with the American Colonization Society &c. Beg permission to Report:

1, With regard to the questions proposed by the Bord of Managers "What effect has the Society had through the course of thirteen years? Has the community been benefited thereby? are the labours of the Society likely to Bring about a spirit of emancipation throughout the State? or is the condition of the African race in the least ameliorated?" In answer to these enquiries your committee feel Justified in Stating that, although the good effected by the Society has not equalled the wishes of many, and perhaps the expectation of some of its friends and patrons (which, in the opinion of your committee, is owing, in a great degree to the want of a uniform and steady course of prudent and persevering enterprise in the cause of emancipation) yet there is satisfactory evidence that good has been effected through the instrumentality of this Society, sufficient to Justify the exertions which have been heretofore made, even in the estimation of those who were at first among its traducers and opposers — and also to excite to more firm and determined perseverence, the friends of this institution in future.

2, with regard to the "consideration" submitted by the Board of managers, to the societies, respecting the "propriety, under existing circumstances, of continuing their exertions any

longer," your committee are of opinion that it would be *improper* in the highest sinse of the word, to give up a cause of such vast moment as this must be acknowledged to be to hundreds of the poor, suffering, degraded sons of slavery and wretchedness amongst us, whose wrongs it devolves upon us and our countrymen to repay.

And although we have not been as successful in repaying those wrongs as we could have wished; yet this does not, in the least Justify in us a relaxation in those humane and benevolent exertions in which we have engaged. The work to be performed is a great and benevolent work, and to accomplish it is not the business of a few months, or even a few years. There are the prejudices — the deep rooted and inveterate prejudices of some; the ignorance of others; and still more, the sordid avarice and interested views of others to be overcome. It is then so far from being expedient at present to suspend our exertions, that in the opinion of your committee these exertions should be called into more prompt and determined exercise. And as the powers which oppose us are, (in many instances,) moral powers, we would suggest a more general dissemination of our principles; and by sending forth light and information in this way, popular prejudices will be met, ignorance will give way to the march of light and truth; the evils of Slavery will be more fully developed to the minds of many who have not heretofore given themselves the trouble of examining its dreadful consequences, or its unexampled injustice! and thus while the opposition is weakened the cause of humanity will be strengthened.

Your committee further suggest the propriety of appointing a committee for the purpose of addressing by epistle, the several Branch Societies composing this Association, exciting them by all possible means and entreaties, to awaken more fully to the cause of suffering humanity and distressed inocence.

3, With regard to the resolution respecting the American Colonization Society, your committe report the propriety, in their opinion, of taking the matter into the consideration of this

Association. all of which we, your committee respectfully submit.

Thomas Thornborough chm

The House went into committee of the whole upon the latter clause of the above report, respecting the Colonization Society; and after some discussion, the committe rose and reported favourably to an indeffinite posponement of the subject, which report the House adopted.

A committee was appointed, according to the suggestion contained in the latter clause of the second paragraph of the above report, consisting of Robert W. Hodson, Amos Weaver, and Benjamin Swaim, with instruction to report said address to the Bord of Managers. And the Bord was ordered to procure the printing of 500 copies, and send them abroad in the name and state of the General Association.

The resolution from Centre, which was laid on the table yesterday, respecting the extracts from the minuets was indeffinitely posponed.

The committe to whom was refered the subject of appointing a New Bord of managers, produced a report which the House amended and adopted as follows;

"Dover, March 14, 1829 — Your committee to whom was refered the subject of organizing a new bord of Managers for the Manumission Society of N Carolina — respectfully Report —

That they have had the same under consideration, and consider that the necessity of a vigilant Bord is decidedly apparent. We take the liberty to recommend that, this General Association appoint and constitute a Bord of Managers consisting of Three persons, one of whom shall be the Secretary of the General Association for the time Being, by virtue of his office; and that the members of the Bord of Managers shall be constituted regular members of the Association during their continuance in office independent of any delegated capacity from a Branch Meeting. And it is further recommended that Nothing less than all three of the members of the Bord shall constitute a quorum, except to adjourn from time to time. And that the

Bord in Session shall have all the powers and capacities of the Association; but shall nevertheless submit the whole of their proceedings to the General Association, at each and every Session to be approved, amended or disposed of as that Body may adjudge expedient. And finally, that the Bord be elected by Ballot at the present Session to continue in office untill the next period for chosing the regular officers: after which time, to be chosen according to the same rules, and the same times as other officers: and should a vacancy in any wise happen in the Bord, if but one member be wanted the other two may supply the same, but if more than one, it must be suplied by the Association — Signed on behalf of the committe,

Benjamin Swaim, chairman.

The house then proceeded to the election of a Bord, which resulted in the choice of Amos Weaver and William Reynolds; who, together with William Swaim, will constitute the Board of Mangers of the Manumission Society of North Carolina, for twelve months.

The committee of finance produced the following report which the House adopted.

"The committee of finance respectfully report that they have received donations as follows — From Cane Creek Branch $1.41¾ — Uharee $3.50 — Caraway $4.00 — Marys Creek $1.50 — Hunting Crek — $1.55 — an individual Donation .50 — in all $12.46¾

Respectfully Submitted

Jo. Aydelotte chm

On motion of Richard Mendenhall, The above sum was ordered into the hands of James C. Kersey, as temporary treasurer, with instruction to confer with the treasurer of the Association.

The committee apointed to make a distribution of Books, pamphlets, &c. reported that they had performed said duly, and were discharged.

On motion of Joseph Aydelotte — Resolved that this Association duly appreciate the merits, and gratefully regret the loss of our worthy and venerable friends, Benjamin Vestal and

Jeremiah Picket, those warm and unabating exertions in the cause of emancipation have left their memories perfumed with a fragrance grateful to their serviving friends —

On motion of Richard Mendenhall the House adjourned to meet again at deep River Meeting House, in Guilford County on the Second friday in September next at 10 Oclock A. M.

William Swaim sec

XXXIII

Deep-River Meeting- House

Guilford County. September the 11, 1829 the General Association of the Manumission Society of North Carolina convened according to adjournment. The returns from the several Branches were called for and appeared as follows: —

Centre
- Benjamin Swaim
- William Reynolds
- Richard Wilson
- Nathan Stanton

New Garden
- Smith More

Deep River
- Jonathan Beard

Caraway
- Micajah Newly

Richland Creek
- William Hodgin
- John Frazier
- Stephen Harlin
- Eleazer Kersey
- James C. Kersey
- Caleb Beals

Springfield
- Benj. Milican
- A. U. Tomlinson
- Thomas T Hunt

Deep Creek
- Thomas T Daniel
- Jacob Brown

Trotters Creek

Cane Creek
- John Stafford

Jamestown
- Richard Mendenhall

Emanuel

Ebenezar

Rocky River

Uharee

Newberry

Tabernaclle

New Salem
- John Hinshaw
- John Coffin
- Wm B Hinshaw
- Howgil Julian

Union
- John Stalker
- Nathan Farlow

Bethel
Dover
Muirs Chapel
    Joseph Iddings
    Michael Wilson
Belew's Creek
    Aaron Coffin
Westfield
Sandy Creek
Marys Creek
Shiloh
Hunting Creek
    Gideon Johnson
Prospect
Reedy Fork
Brush Creek
Hillsborough
Greensborough
Beans Shoals
Rehoboth
Mount Olivet
Jersey Settlement
South Fork
Loves Creek
Providence
    Nathan Elliott
Gethsemane
Forbuses Creek
Uharee
    William Burney
    Henry B. Hill
Zoar
    Moses Rich
    Benj Milican
Dover
    Joseph Rich

Female Societies

New Salem	Kennet
Centre	Springfield
Jamestown	Providence

The president B. Swaim, Esq. Informed the House that he had prepared an official communication, which was introduced, read, and refered to a committee consisting of Henry B. Hill, Aaron Coffin and Allen U. Tomlinson.

The committe to whom certain questions, answers and so fourth, were refered at last Association, produced a report which was ordered to be filed.

A communication from the N Salem Benevolent Society, was introduced, read, and ordered to be filed.

On motion of Amos Weaver, a committee consisting of Amos Weaver and James C. Kersey was appointed to address the said Female Benevolent society, appropriately, on the subject which has enlisted ther sympathies.

On motion of James C. Kersey a committee of Finance was raised, consisting of Howgil Julian and Benjamin Milican, sen.

On motion of Aaron Coffin, a committee was appointed, consisting of Aaron Coffin, Thomas T. Hunt, and William Reynolds, with instructions to enquire into some plan for a more direct communication between the Association, the Bord of Managers, and the Branches, and report tomorrow.

On motion of Richard Mendenhall, the House adjourned to meet again tomorrow morning at ten Oclock.

Saturday, September 12

The House met according to adjournment.

The Rev. Amos Weaver delivered an extempore address, which he was requested, by the Association, to forward to the editor of the Greensborough Patriot for Publication.

The Bord of Managers produced the following report which the House adopted:

The Board of Managers Report: That, since their organization, they have had a session, at which they examined extracts from the Minutes of the last General Association, and ordered them to be published in the Greensborough Patriot, with 52 extra copies to be sent to the Branches. At the same time the Bord had presented to them part of an address to the citizens of North Carolina; and they examined it with satisfaction: But as the committee appointed to prepare this address have not yet presented the whole of it to the Board, we can report nothing further on the subject. No other business has been brought before us, or has offered itself as requiring our attention; nor have we any measure to suggest.

Respectfully Submitted

Wm Swaim Chm.

The House, after discussing the subject in committee of the whole, ordered the board of managers to proceed with the address according to the instructions of Last Association.

The Treasurer reported — Cash on hand $12.10 — At interest, $48.24 — Total, $60.34.

The committee appointed to examine the summary of answers, produced a report which was ordered to be filed.

The committee to whom was referred the Presidents communication, produced a report which the House amended and adopted as follows.

The committee to whom was referred the presidents communication and the documents accompanying it, respectfully *report:*

1 That in regard to the appointment of an agency at this time we think it would not be expedient — Though we recommend the Propriety of referring the subject to the several Branches, for discussion, and that they be instructed to report their views to the next Association.

2 considering the state of our finances — we think it would not be advisable to send a delegation to the American Convention to be held in Washington — but we would recommend that the Bord of Managers be instructed to send on a communication when that society shall convene; and that they be directed, at the same time, to forward five dollars towards defraying the expense of said convention.

3 With regard to petitioning the next Legislature, to leave owners of slaves at discretion in liberating their slaves, although, we believe it to be a subject of vital importance, and one which ought to be well considered — yet we think it inexpedient at this time to forward such petition.

4 On the subject of memorializing congress, your committee would recommend the propriety of appointing a special committee to prepare a memorial, praying for the abolition of Slavery in the district of Columbia, and have the same officially signed and forwarded to Congress. And further, your committee recommend the publication entire, of the communication, in the Greensborough Patriot, and through that medium, its publication requested in all the newspapers in the state.

Respectfully Submitted
Henry B. Hill
Charman

On motion of William Reynolds, the committe recommended in the above report was appointed, consisting of Richard Mendenhall, Aaron Coffin, and James C. Kersey.

The committee on the Subject of a more direct communication with the Association; the Board of Managers and the Branches, beg leave to suggest the propriety of appointing 8

corresponding secretaries, to correspond with the Branches, and ascertain the name of the chairman of each Branch for the time being, and the nearest postoffice — and further, that it be enjoined on the Branches, in making out their returns of delegates, to insert the name of their chairman, and the nearest Postoffice — the information thus obtained to be deposited with the Board of Managers, and that these corresponding secretaries, shall from time to time report their proceedings to the Association.

The corresponding secretaries were appointed accordingly, consisting of Isaac Kinney, Esq. James Adams, Esq. The Rev. Jeremiah Dodson, Mrs. Mary W. Long, Aaron Coffin, Henry B. Hill, James Kersey, and Herman Allen.

On motion of Henry B. Hill the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved that this Association recommend to the Branches, to open subscriptions at the different Branch Meetings, for the purpose of obtaining money for the use of the Association; and that the Branches be requested to forward such sums as may be thus raised to the next Association.

On motion of Amos Weaver, the House adjourned to meet at Marlborough Meeting House, in Randolph County, on the second Friday in March next, at 10 O'clock, A. M.

William Swaim

Board of Managers

Greensborough, April 3, 1830. The bord of managers of the Manumission Society of North Carolina according to previous arrangement.

On motion it was resolved that each member should prepare a copy of answers to certain questions propounded by the Free produce Society of Pennsylvania, and report to next meeting.

On motion the bord adjourned to meet on the second Saturday in June next, at this place.

Greensborough, June 12, 1830 The board of managers of the manumission Society of North Carolina Met according to adjournment, when it appeared that only one member of the bord had prepared answers to the queries. After considerable conversation, it was agreed that each member of the bord should, by enquiry, and report to next meeting.

XXXIV

Marlborough M. House

Randolph county, March the 12. 1830. The General Association of the Manumission Society of N. Carolina met according to adjournment, and on calling for the returns from the several Branches the following members appeared and took their Seats:

Centre
- Benjamin Swaim
- William Reynolds
- Nathan Stanton

New Garden

Deep River
- Zimri Stuart
- Jonathan Bond

Caraway
- John Clark
- William Dougan
- Phineas Nixon

Richland Creek
- R. W. Hodson
- Eliazar Kersey
- James Kersey
- James Frazier

Springfield
- Benjamin Milican
- Mahlon Hocket
- A. U. Tomlinson
- Jeremiah Pickett
- Joseph Heath
- Phineas Albertson

Deep Creek

Trotter's Creek

Cane Creek
- Jacob Hinshaw
- Wm. Thompson
- Peter Stout

Jamestown
- Richard Mendenhall

Emanuel

Ebenezar
- Dr. John Parker

Rocky-River

Uharee
- Thos. Thornborough
- Thos. Brookshire
- Allen Hill

Newberry

Tabernacle
- Richard Laughlin
- Lewis Jones Sen
- Lewis Jones Jr
- John Broyles

New Salem
- John Coffin
- Howgil Julian

Union
- John Stalker
- John Robbins
- Aaron Reynolds
- Thomas McCracken
- Aaron Lindly

Bethel

Dover

Muirs Chappel
- Joseph Iddings

Belew's Creek
    Aaron Coffin
Westfield
Sandy Creek
Mary's Creek
Shiloh
Hunting Creek
    Joseph Patterson
Prospect
Reedy Fork
Brush Creek
Hillsborough
Greensborough
Beans Shoals
Rehoboth
Mount Olivet
Jersey Settlement
South Fork
Loves Creek
Providence
    Jesse Reynolds
    Isaac Chamness
    Isaac Beeson
Gethsemane
Forbuses Creek
Zoar
    William Rich
    Samuel Rich
    Isaac Rich
    William Davis

The president informed the House that he had prepared an official communication which, on motion of Aaron Coffin, was introduced, read, and referred to a committee consisting of Aaron Coffin, William Reynolds, and Zimri Stuart, with instructions to report tomorrow.

On motion of Amos Weaver, that part of the President's communication, relative to the State of Society, was referred to a committee consisting of Amos Weaver, James C. Kersey, and Thornborough.

Received a communication from the New Salem Female Benevolent Association, which was read and ordered to be filed.

On motion of Amos Weaver, a committee was appointed, consisting of Phineas Nixon, and John Clark, with instructions to draw up and forward to the New Salem Benevolent Association, an appropriate address.

Several of the Branches, in accordance with instructions sent them from last Association, produced answers to the question of appointing an agency; which answers were referred to a committee composed of Richard Mendenhall, Benj. Milikan, Thomas Brookshire, Robert W. Hodson, and Joseph Patterson.

The Bord of Managers produced the following Report, which was read and adopted:

The Bord of Managers of the Manumission Society of North Carolina Respectfully Report:

That Since last Association they have experienced much inconvenience, and have had their operations considerably retarded, owing to the difficulty of getting a quorum, but they have proceded the best way they could under such circumstances: First, they have drawn and forwarded to the American convention, a communication accompanied with $5.00, as directed by last Association; and Second, they have received the report of the committee appointed by the Association convened at Dover, on the 14, of March 1829, to draw up and report to the bord of managers, an address &c. We had hoped to have the address printed and ready for destribution, by this Association, but before we could get a Meeting of the Bord so as to recieve the address officially, and make arrangements for the printing, so much time had elapsed that it was impossible to have it completed. It is, however in a state of forwardness.

Respectfully Submitted
Wm Swaim Chm

On motion of Amos Weaver, a committee of finance was appointed, consisting of John Coffin and Allen U. Tomlinson.

The treasurer reported, cash on hand, $13.06 — at interest, $39.09 — to which may be added $6.55 received during this Association Total — $59.70.

The House adjourned to meet again tomorrow-morning at 10 O'clock.

Saturday March 14, 1830

The House met according to adjournment; and proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing two years —The balloting committee announced the election of Benjamin Swaim President, William Swaim Secretary, Zimri Stuart, Treasurer; and William Reynolds, Robert W. Hodson, James C. Kersey, Dr. John Parker and Aaron Stalker, Managers.

The committee to whom was referred the subject of appointing an agency, produced the following, which was adopted.

The committee to whom was reffered the subject of appointing an agency, as recommended at last Assoc iation, respectfully report, that in our opinion it would not be expedient, at this time, to appoint such agency.

Richard Mendenhall Chm

The committee to whom was referred so much of the President's Message as relates to the State of Society, produced the following; which, after much animated and interesting discussion was adopted:

The committee to whom was refferred so much of the President's communication, together with the resolution for enquiring into the measures best calculated to promote the great object for which we are associated, Respectfully Report:

1. That with respect to the State of Society. Although it does not present a prospect so flattering as could be wished; there is, nevertheless, much to encourage us, and much to animate us to greater exertion in future. It is true that some of those who once took an active part with us in our deliberations have seemingly lost much of their Zeal and ardor in this cause, but in the midst of this falling away it is encouraging to see most of those who espoused this cause in the commencement, and who have escaped the destructive assaults of death, still opposing, with manly firmness this system of human oppression. With respect to that lethargic spirit—that want of energy which so unhappily prevails in many of our Branches, and which so powerfully cheats individual enterprize in many cases, we think the following are the circumstances from which it originates: 1, mistaken notions with respect to what has been already accomplished. The former suppose, 1, that the work to be accomplished is one too great to be accomplished by our puny efforts; or, 2, that the work for which this Society was organized is already accomplished: the latter conclude that all the exertions which have been made have proved ineffectual, or at least, have fallen far short of producing that effect which it was hoped would have attended them. We have seen that this want of energy arises out of mistaken notions in relation to these particulars. If this be true it follows that the best means

of exciting individuals to action and determined co-operation, and of directing the energies of this Society with the greatest success, will be to discuss freely and fully, the questions — 1 What good has resulted to the community, and to the African race in particular in consequence of our association? 2. What remains yet to be accomplished before our laudable wishes can be realized? 3. Whether we be authorized, from the nature of things to indulge any rational or solid hope of the final success of our generous and pious project? And, 4, what is the most successful way of demonstrating its practicability to the People Generally? With respect to this last we would recommend the General circulation of well-written tracts &c. on the Subject.

Amos Weaver chairman

The committee on the communication from the chair produced a report which the Society adopted as follows:

The committee to whom was referred the communication from the chair, after taking the same under consideration, respectfully report:

That as to the second Item there off, in regard to petitioning the Legislature to repeal the laws that restrain emancipation—, we think it would be expedient, not only to petition on that point, but others connected with the Subject; and we would suggest the propriety of appointing a committee to prepare a memorial and report to next Association.

[Amos Weaver, William Reynolds, and Benjamin Swaim were appointed].

In regard to the propriety of admitting practical slaveholders to become members of the Society in future, we recommend its posponement until next Association.

In reference to the comparative value of free and slave labour, and a document from the free produce Society of Pennsylvania, accompanying the communication, we suggest the propriety of submitting them to the discretion of the Bord of Managers.

On the suggestion of so altering the constitution as to lessen the number of representatives from the Branches, we believe it would not be advantageous for a change to take place.

And finally, we recommend the publication of the communication entire, in the Greensboro Patriot.

Aaron Coffin *Chm*

On motion of William Reynolds, It was resolved that the Secretary appoint an assistant Secretary, to serve for the term of two years from this time, and report to next Association.

On motion the House adjourned to meet again at New Garden meeting House, in Guilford county, on the Second friday in September next, at 11, O'clock A. M.

Wm Swaim *Sec.*

Bord of managers

Greensborough, April 3, 1830. The Board of managers of the Manumission Society of N. C. met according to arrangements.

On motion, it was resolved that each member of the bord should prepare a copy of answers to questions propounded by the free produce society of Pennsylvania, and report to next meeting.

On motion the bord adjourned to meet on the second saturday in June next in this place.

Greensborough, June 12, 1830 — The Board of managers of the manumission Society of North Carolina met according to adjournment, when it appeared that only one member of the board had prepared answers to the queries; after considerable conversation it was agreed that each member of the board should by enquiry, obtain what information he can respecting the subject of enquiry before the next meeting of the bord.

Ordered by the bord that when the address shall be printed, William Swaim use every opportunity to distribute them in any direction he may think proper, only reserving a considerable number of copies for the use of the General association.

The board then adjourned to meet at Parsons Mill on the 3 Saturday in August at 1, O'clock P. M.

Wm. Swaim *Sec*

August the 21, 1830 The Board of Managers according to adjournment After some deliberation appointed James C. Kearsy & Dr. John Parker to Complete the answers to questions from the Free Produce Society of Pennsylvania. On Motion the bord adjourned to meet again at the Association.

XXXV

New Garden Sept. 10th 1830

The Bord again met. Also the General association of the Manumission Society of N. Carolina met according to adjournment. The Returns being called appeared as follows:

Center
Wm. Reynolds
H. Mendenhall
Joshua Stanly
R. D. Wilson
J. Anthony
T. Hodgin
N. Stanton
New Garden
Deep Creek
M Mendenhall
Z. Stewart
Caraway
John Henly
Wm. Dougan
Richland Creek
R. W. Hodson
J. C. Kersey
Springfield
B. Millican
Alen Tomlinson
Deep Creek
James Adams
Jacob Brown
Daniel Dobbins
John Adams
———
Trotters Creek
Cane Creek
Emanuel
Ebenezar
Rocky River
Uhara
Wm. Burny
Newberry
Tabernacle
John Brails
Noah Brails
New Salem
Union
Suel Farlow
Bethel
Muirs Chappel
R. Swain
I Iddings
I. Wilson
Dover
Saml. Stanly
Belews Creek
Aaron Coffin
Westfield
Sandy Creek
Marys Creek
Shiloh

Hunting Creek
Jo— Patteson
Prospect
Reedy Fork
A. Weaver
Henry White
N. Kenaday
Brush Creek
Hillsboro
Greensboro
Pete Adams
Bean Shoals
Rehoboth
W. Atwell
Jerssy Settlement
South Fork
Loves Creek
Providence
Gethsemane
Forbus Creek
Zoar
Saml Rich
James Town
G. D. Mendenhall
R. Mendenhall
Deep River
J. Gordan
Cane Creek
Jacob Henshaw
Dover
Reuben Starbuck

A quoram being Present The President informed the house that he had prepared an official Communication which was Read & Refered to a committee with Instructions to Report tomorrow. The Committee appointed at Last Meeting to prepare an Essay of a Memorial to the Legislature Reported no progress & were discharge. a Committee was then appointed to Prpair a Memorial & Report tomorrow.

The house then adjourned to meet to morrow at Ten oclock.

New Garden Sept. 11th 1830

The house met according to adjournment. When Peter Adams was unanimously appointed assistant Secretary.

The Board of Managers Report that they have Procured the printing of the address to the Citizens of North Carolina & that Said address is now Ready for distribution

Also that answers are prepared to questions propounded by the "Free Produce Society of Pennsylvania" which answers were Submitted with the Report which is as follows: The circular of Inquiries of "the Free Produce Society of Pennsylvania," has Claimed a Chief Share of the Labours of your Board Since the Last Session of the General association. We have endeavoured

to Collect what information we could Relative to the matter of Inquiry & tho we fail of obtaining that definite Information which Seems to be Required yet we are willing to offer the Result of our Investigation & trust it possesses some Pertinence & will afford some satisfaction — It may be proper first to Remark that the Manumission Society of N. Carolina owing to a diversity of Sentiments among its members Respecting the propriety & efficasy of observing a Line of distinction between the Produce of Free & that of Slave Labour & Prefering the Former to the Latter has Long Since Ressolved not to act on this Subject in its Social Capasity But to Leave individuals to follow the dictates of their own conscience & the Conviction of their own Judgments. Few appear Consciencious but many are willing to Lend their aid to the object of the Free Produce Society believing it to be Collattorial with that of the Manumission Society —

In answer to the Subject of Inquiry We Remark

1st that the Climate & Soil of our Section of Country are in a degree adapted to the Groth of Tobacco & Cotten. Tobacco however is Cultivated by free Labour to an Extent so Limited as to be unworthy of much Consideration. The Same Cannot be Said Respecting the Culture of Cotten. There is however No person within our Knowledge engaged in Raising Cotten Largely by the Labour of Freemen. As for the Specific Purpose of Exhibiting a comparison between the Value of Free Labour & that of Slave Labour as applied to its Culture the Present Prices of Cotton will not justify the Expence of hiring free Labourers to Cultivate it. There are through the Country Verry many Farmers who with the Labour of their own Familys besides Raising Grain & Cotton Sufficient for domestic use, produce also a small Surplus of the Latter for Market — quantities though small of themselves when collected swell to a considerable amount. Accordingly there were Purchaised at one store in this County (Guilford) Considerably above 50,000 lbs of Cotten, the produce of Free Labour & the crop of Last year (1829) making upwards of 13,000 lbs of Bale Cotten.

Amos Hunt & Stockton who we believe are already known to "the Free produce Society of Pennsylvania" are the only dealers within our Knowledge that have kept a distinction between Cotten produced by Free Labour & that Produced by the Labour of Slaves. We have therefore no means of making an *authentick Estimate* but we feel ourselves safe in making the *probable Estimate* that Seven or Eight times the above amt. is Produced annually by Free Labour in the County of Guilford & that Some Hundreds of bales of Such Cotton might be obtained annually in this & the Neghbouring Counties of N. C. Were the Requisite Pains taken in Keeping it separate from that produced by the Labour of Slaves.

2nd. Tho many persons Express themselves Friendly to the object of the "Free produce Society" yet we have met with no Person who is willing to Engage in raising Cotten from an assurance that a Preference would be Given to it over the produce of Slave Labour.

3rd. Many Persons are willing to Give a small advance above the Market Price for the articles of Domestick Consumption Such as Coffee, Sugar, Molasses & Manufactored Cotten provided they are assured said articles are uncontaminated with the Labour of oppression &c.

4th. In our opinion which is formed from considerable Inquiry a Large Proportion of the People, of our Neighbourhood would purchaise said articles at the same price in preference to those Raised by Slaves.

The address has not been Ready, [for] Distribution till the present time. It is now in Readiness 100 copies being here today. We submit the maner of Distribution to the General Association.

On motion a committee was appointed Consisting of Amos Weaver Peter Adams and Aaron Coffin with instructions to Draft Memorials to Each of the next Methodist Conferences of Virginia & South Carolina & Report the Same to the Bord of Manigers.

The Board of Manigers were instructed to forward Said

memorial to the Conferences, to Gether with Copies of the address for Each of the Bishops & Presiding Elders.

On Motion a committee was appointed Consisting of B. Swaim William Reynolds & Jams C. Kersey with instruction to prepare a draft of a Memorial to Each of the babtist associations of Sandy Creek & abbots Creek & Report to the Bord of Manigers. The Board of Maniges were Instructed to forward a Memorial to the associations to Gether with Copies of the address at their discression. On motion the house Recommended to the Several branches to Enqure into the Expediency of Preventing Practical Slave holders from becoming Members of this society in future & to Report to next association.

The Committee appointed on yesterday to draft a memorial to the next Legislature produced an Essay which was Refered to the Bord of Maniges to Transcribe [and] Procure the Proper official Signatures & forward a copy to Each house. The Committee to whoom was Refered the Communication from the Chair Report:

1st. That it is the opinion of your Committee that nothing Libelious was contained in the article for which Wm. L. Garison was Indicted & Convicted.

2nd. That Wm. Garison did not surpass that Liberty which is Guaranteed to the Press by the Constitution of the United States.

3rd. Your Committee Recommend that the association Enter their protest against the Illegal & unconstitutional Decision in Garisons Case.

4th. That the Communication be published Entire in the Greensboro Patriot.

On Motion of Amos Weaver

Resolved that all the Branches which shall not be Represented In this association within Twelve months hereafter, Shall be erassed from the List of Branches & Shall not there after be Entitled to a Representation unless again Received & Recognised as Branches. Resolved further that the board of Maniges through their corresponding Secretaries make known the above Resolution to all the branches.

On Motion Resolved that the Secretary make known to the Several Branches that the Funds require them to make small donations to the next association. On motion the house adjourned to meet again at Gillead meeting house in Randolph County on the Last Friday in July next at 11 oclock A. M.

Peter Adams
A. Secy.

XXXVI

Randolph County N. Carolina
Gilead Meeting house 29th July 1831

The General Association of the Manumission Society of N. Carolina met acording to previous adjournment. The President Benjamin Swaim Esq. took the Chair and in the absence of the Secretary and his assistant Nathan Stanton was appointed Secretary pro. tem. and William Reynolds was called to the Table as assistant.

The Returns from the different [branches] was called for — When it appeared that a quorum was present.

The President delivered an Interesting Extemporaneous address On Motion of James C. Kearsy — The Subject of admitting practical Slave holders as members which was Refered to the Branches at the Last Association was taken into consideration and answers from Some of the Branches Recd. but not a sufficient No. to Authorize an Alteration. It was again Refered to the Branches.

On Motion of Wm. Reynolds the Resolution passed at Last Session of this association, for Expunging Those Branches that were not Represented within 12 mo. after that time was taken into consideration and so amended as not to go into Effect until the next Regular Session of this Association — A proposition from the Muirs Chappel branch for this association to Memorialize the next Session of the General Assembly on the subject of Repealing the Law prohibiting the Education of Slaves was Read and a committee appointed consisting of James C. Kearsy — Wm. Reynolds & Jo Iddings with Instructions to take the proposition under consideration and Report tomorrow.

The Treasures' Report was Laid before the house and Refered to a committe consisting of Tristram Cogshill, Aaron Stalker and John Henly with Instructions to

Report thereon tomorrow.

On motion the house adjourned to meet on tomorrow.

Saturday July 30 1831

The house met according to adjournment. The committee appointed yesterday to take into consideration the Treasurers Report produced their views on the subject which the house amended and adopted.

The Same Committee Laid before the house a Letter from the Treasurer Zimri Stuart containing his Resignation, which the house accepted and appointed Benjamin Millican to fill the vacancy.

The Committee to whom was Refered the proposition from Muires Chappel Branch Relative to Memorializing the Legislature on the Subject of the act prohibiting the Education of Slaves Reported favourable to the proposion which Report After Considerable discussion the House Rejected.

A communication was Laid before the House from a Private Individual Relative to the Education of Slaves Laid on the Table —

On motion of Wm. Reynolds a Committee was appointed consisting of Dr. John Parker, Wm. Reynolds, Benjamin Swaim Esqr. James C. Kearsey and Aaron Stalker, With Instructions to draft a Remonstrance against the Enactments of the Last Legislature Relative to Slaves —

This committee is to meet at Center Meeting house on the 4th Saturday in September next Where the Members of the Manumission Society in General are Invited.

On motion of James C. Kearsey the Subject of addressing the next session of the American Convention was Refered to the Board of Managers. Joseph Iddings was appointed Corresponding Secretary to fill the vacancy occassioned by the Removeal to the West of Jeremiah Dodson.

On motion of James C. Kearsy the Secretary was to forward an Extract from the Minutes of this Association to the Editor of the Greensboro Patriot for Publication.

The house placed the distribution of the Tracts belonging to this Society in the hands of the Committee of Remonstrance. On motion the House adjourned to meet again on the first Friday in March next at Ebenezar Meeting house in Randolph County.

Test.

Nathan Stanton

Gilead July 20 1831 Sec. Pro. Tem.

XXXVII

Ebenezar March 2, 1832

The General association of the Manumission Society for North Carolina met at this place according to adjournment. When the Different Branches were called, there were only a bare quram present. On motion of Peter Adams William Reynolds Esqr. was called to the Chair In the absence of the president. Owcing to the Small No. of Delegates It was thought advisable to adjourn until the First Friday in May next which was accordingly done.

Test

P. Adams A. Secy

XXXVIII

Ebenezar Randolph County
May 4th 1832

The General association of the Manumission Society of North Carolina Convened according to adjournment the President B. Swaim Took the Chair When the following Branches were Represented by the following Persons (to wit.)

Branches Represented

Center
Wm. Reynolds
Thomas Hodgin
John Stanton
John Leonard
Lewis Reynolds &
Nathan Stanton

Richland Creek
Wm. Kearsey
Ezra Kearsey
Enoch Harland

Springfeild
Ben. Millikin

Ebenezar
Wm. Fentress
Lewis Walton
———
Uharee
Tho. Brookshire
———
Union
John & Aaron Stalker
Jo Newlin
———
Zoar
Peter Rich
Not Represented
New Garden, no return
do
Deep Creek
Caraway
Trotters' Creek
Cane Creek
Emanual
Rocky River
Tabernacle
New Salem
Bethel
Muirs Chappell
Belews Creek
Westfield
Sandy Creek
Marys Creek
Shiloh
Hunting Creek
Jamestown
Deep River
Prospect, Reedy fork
Brush Creek, Hillsboro
Greensboro, Bean Shoals
Rehoboth, Jersy Settlement
South Fork, Loves Creek
Providence, Gethsamane
Forbus Creek

When it fully appeared that a quoram was present the House proceeded to business.

On Motion Joshua Stanly, James Needham, John Spencer, J. Gossett, Nathan Frazure, Williamson Gossett & Nathan Ozborn were admitted as members at this Meeting.

On motion the House proceeded to the Election of the officers for the next two years. When Benjn. Swaim was Elected, President B. Millican, Treasurer & William Reynolds, Secretary.

On Motion the Chair appointed William Reynolds & John Stanton a committee to settle with or assist the Treasurer in making his settlement and Report accordingly.

On Motion the anual communication from the President was Read by the Secretary, after which it was Refered to Wm. Fentress Aaron Stalker & N Stanton, with Instructions to Re-

port forthwith, after which the following Report was Read from the said Committee to wit:

"We Recommend the Course proposed At the close of the presidents Message, and that the Message be Published Entire in the "Greensboro Patriot"

Wm. Fentress, Chairman

On Motion the House went into committee of the whole, on the adoption of the Above Report, Joshua Stanly In the Chair When a considerable discussion took place. In which Ben Swaim, Wm. Fentress, James Needham, Ben Millican and John Stanton, Took a warm part for the adoption of the same, and Wm. Reynolds & N. Stanton were Equally Strong in argument against it.

On Motion of B. Swaim Esqr. The adoption was postponed until the Next General association.

Joshua Stanly Cha.

On Motion the Treasurers Report was Read & adopted as follows:

Cash from N. Mendenhall for 2 Notes & Int on same	$44.77
Cash on hand Last association	9.92
	$54.69
paid W. Swaim pr. order	$54.14
Cash on hand	$ 0.55

May 4th 1832 *B. Milliken Tres*

On Motion the Presidents communication be published Entire In the Greensboro Patriot.

On Motion the Ressolution passed at New Garden Two Years ago to Expunge all the Branches that was not Represented In Twelve Months and Renewed Last Years be *Ricinded. agreed to.*

On Motion the communication handed In by Peter Rich was Read & Laid on the Table.

On Motion this House adjourn to meet at James town in Guilford County at Eleven oclock A. M.

Test *Peter Adam* A. Sy.

XXXIX

Jamestown Sept. 14th. 1832

The General Association of the Manumission Society of N. C. met according to adjournment & the returns from the several [branches] were called for & resulted as follows:

New Garden

———

Centre

John Leonard
Simon Osborn
Nathan Stanton

———

Deep-River

———

Caraway

Springfield

Benjamin Millikan
Mahlon Hocket
Jeremiah Piggott
John Carter

———

Deep Creek

———

Trotter's Creek

———

Cane Creek

———

Jamestown

Richd, Mendenhall

———

Richland

———

Emmanuel

———

Ebenezer

———

Rocky-River

———

Uharie

———

Newbury

———

Tabernacle

———

New-Salem

———

Union

Henry Powel
Aaron Stalker
Sewel Farlow

———

Bethel

———

Dover

———

Muirs Chapel

Michael Wilson
Meshack Iddings

———

Belew's Creek — Providence

———

Westfield-Sandy-Creek

———

Mary's Creek — Muddy-Creek

———

Shiloh — Hunting Creek

———

Prospect — Reedy-Fork
———
Brush-Creek — Hillsborough
———
Greensborough — Bean's Shoals
———
Rehoboth — Mount Olivet
———
Jersey Settlement — South Fork

———
Love's Creek
———
Zoar
Peter Rich Jr.
Samuel Rich
———
Gethsemane — Forbus's Creek
———
Lee's Chapel — Mount Tabor
45

The Secretary with leave of the house nominated Nathan Stanton as his assistant.

On motion Wm. Reynolds (the Secretary not returned from his own Branch as a Delegate) was adopted as a member for the session.

On motion of Richard Mendenhall the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole with Aaron Stalker in the chair on the state of the Society. After some desultory conversation the Committee rose but asked leave to sit again.

The House then adjourned for half an hour.

When the House convened it went again into Committee of the whole on the State of the Society.

After considerable conversation the following resolution was introduced by Benj. Swaim viz:

Resolved, That this Society from a view of its present State has not yet fully achieved all the benevolent objects of the Institution & that it is the imperative duty of this General Association to take some prompt & vigilant measure calculated to increase the activity of the members:

It was moved by Richard Mendenhall that the various Branches of the Manumission Society be recommended to contribute money to the Colonization Society — On this motion an animated debate arose. After which the Committee rose reported the above resolution & motion to the House & recommended their adoption.

The House did adopt them.

The Minutes of the last Session being called for were read; then,

On motion of Aaron Stalker the business referred from last meeting to this on the subject of remonstrating against the employment of slave labour in the construction of the projected Rail Road was indefinitely postponed.

On motion of Benj. Millican, Jeremiah Piggott & Aaron Stalker were appointed a Committee of finance.

On motion of Richard Mendenhall a Committee consisting of Richard Mendenhall, Aaron Stalker & Benj. Millikan were appointed to address the Branches on the subject of contributing funds to the use of the Colonization Society.

The Committee of Finance reported that they had received $1.12½ cts as a donation from Springfield Branch & 27½ cts from an individual making $1.40 cts which report was received & the money ordered to be paid over to the Treasurer.

On motion Benjamin Swaim & Richard Mendenhall were nominated a Committee to draw up a Memorial for the Baptist Society praying the Legislature to enact a law for licensing Negroes to preach under certain restrictions. — Then

On motion the House adjourned to meet again on the Second Friday in March next at 11 o'clock A. M. at Centre Meeting-house in Guilford County, the Members pledging themselves to each other to attend at sd time & place provided they have it in their power.

Sept. 14th 1832 Wm Reynolds Sec.

XLI

Centre March 8th. 1833

The General Association of the Manumission Society of N. C. met agreeably to adjournment.

The returns from the several Branches were as follows:

Centre — Jno. Leonard, Charles Leonard Lewis Reynolds Daniel Osborn Nathan Stanton & Wm Reynolds

Union — Aaron Lindley, Henry Powel John Stalker & Aaron Stalker

Muirs Chapel
Meshach Iddings & Michael Wilson
Richland —
Ezra Kersey, James Newman William Newman, & Enoch Harlan
Jamestown —
Richard Mendenhall
Zoar —
Peter Rich
Ebenezer —
William Gossett

On motion Samuel Osborn, Jesse Stanton Dr. Milton Worth & Jonathan Hodgin were admitted as members for the Session.

The Journal of last meeting was then called for and read.

The Committee appointed to address the Branches on the subject of contributing money to the Colonization reported that they had not performed that service When on motion of Richard Mendenhall the house agreed to exonerate them from the performance of it at all.

The following resolution was introduced by Nathan Stanton & adopted by the House.

Resolved that the House go into Committee of the whole House on the propriety of the Society's continuing its exertions any longer in a Society capacity.

The House went into Committee of the whole accordingly. John Stalker being called to the chair When after discussing the subject at some length the Committee rose & reported to the House in favour of continuing. The House adopted the measure.

On motion of Richard Mendenhall the Secretary was ordered to make out an account of this meeting in some shape & forward it to Wm. Swaim for publication in "the Greensboro Patriot."

On motion of Richard Mendenhall it was resolved by the Association that the separate Branches of the Manumission Society be directed to memorialize the next session of Congress on some subject within its sphere of Legislation tending to the amelioration of the condition of the coloured population in the United States.

The House then adjourned to meet again on the Second

Friday in Sept. next at Deep River Meeting House in Guilford County at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

Wm. Reynolds Sec

XLII

Deep River Meeting House
Sept 1833

The Gen. Association of the Manumission Society of N. C. met agreeably to adjournment.

The President being absent Nathan Mendenhall was nominated pro tem.

The return of Delegates was as follows: From

Centre
Lewis Reynolds
Nathan Stanton
Thos. Hodgin
Jos. Hodgin
Lyndon Swaim &
William Reynolds

Springfield
Benjamin Millican

Muirs Chapel
John Wilson &
Meshach F. C. Iddings

Union
Henry Powell
John Stalker

Deep-River
John Gordon
Zimri Stuart &
Jonathan Beard

Williamson Gossett of Ebenezer Branch and Caleb Beals of Richland were on motion admitted as Members for the Session.

The minutes of last Session were then read.

An Address signed by Henry Powell was presented to the meeting which Address on motion of Jno. Gordon Esq. was read.

An address prepared by Lyndon Swaim was by him read to the House, when

On motion of Nathan Stanton the said Addresses were referred to Committee consisting of Jno. Gordon Jno Stalker Meshach F. C. Iddings with instructions to report to this Meeting.

The House then adjourned for ten minutes.

When the House reorganized the Committee on the Addresses made the following report viz:

The Committee to whom was referred the Addresses read to this meeting respectfully report That we would recommend the Address signed by Henry Powell to be filed in the Secretary's office & that a Committee of three members be appointed to expunge or soften such parts of the other Address as may appear to be expressed in too strong language & to forward it thus prepared to the Editor of the Greensboro Patriot for publication. — Respectfully submitted

Jno Gordon Ch,m

The House adopted the report & appointed Benj. Swaim Lyndon Swaim & William Reynolds a Committe for the above purpose.

On a motion for raising a fund for the use of the it appeared that $4.25 cts. were subscribed $2.75 of which were paid in & handed over to the Treasurer with the subscription of $1.50 cts. by him to be collected.

The House then adjourned to meet again at Springfield on the 2nd Friday in March next at 11 o'clock A. M.

Wm Reynolds Sec

XLIII

Springfield March 1834

The General Association met according to adjournment but there not being a Quorum they adjourned to meet again on the last Friday in July next at Marlboro' Meeting House in Randolph at 11 o'clock A. M.

XLIV

Marlborough July 25th. 1834

The Gen. Ass. met agreeably to adjournment. On a call for a return from the several Branches it appeared that the following Delegates were present:

Centre
Benj. Swaim, John Leonard & Wm. Reynolds

Springfield
Benj. Millican, Joseph Hiatt, Sam,l Hunt, & Mordecai Mendenhall

Union
Sewell Farlow, Thos. Fentriss, Aaron Stalker, Nathan Farlow jr., & Joseph Newlin

It appearing that there was a Quorum present the House was organized and proceeded to business.

A motion was made and adopted by the house to admit such members of the manumission society as are present, members of the Association pro tempore.

On motion Benjamin Millican the House took up the consideration of state of the society & the question shall this Society longer continue its efforts?

On a further motion The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on the above subject, Joseph Newlin being called to the Chair.

The Committee of the whole after much discussion rose & reported the following resolutions offered by Benj Swaim to the House, Viz:

Resolved that this Institution has not yet achieved the whole object which Providence has designed for it

Therefore be it further resolved that we continue this Institution

Which report & resolutions were received and adopted by the House.

The House then proceeded to elect officers for the ensuing 2 years Thos. Fentriss & Aaron Stalker being appointed balloting Committee.

Said Committee reported that Benj. Swaim is elected President, Wm. Reynolds Sec. & Benj. Millican Treasurer which report was adopted by the House.

On Motion the House instructed Benj. Swaim President to use such means as in his judgment may seem expedient to arouse the sleeping Branches.

Then the House adjourned to meet again at Centre Meeting house in Guilford County on the 2nd Friday in March next at 11 o'clock A. M.

Wm. Reynolds Sec.

Zimri Stuart Treasurer, in acct. with the Genl. Association

Paid over since last Association to William Swaim, printer for printing, &c. ordered by the Genl. Association .....$ 9.00

To — Amos Weaver — for postage paid on letter to the American Convention	.25
Cash on hand	5.37½
In Notes	42.09
Amount	47.46½
Donation from Center Branch	3.20
Whole amount	50.66½

Ezra Kersey
James Newman
Wm. Newman
Jesse Kersey
Caleb Bales
Enoch Harlan

APPENDIX

[To the American Colonization Society]

To the President and Board of Manager of the American Society for colonizing the Free People of Colour of the United States —

May 25 AD 1817

Gentlemen

The Manumission and colonizing Society of North Carolina hearing with pleasure of your benevolent Interposition, during the last session of congress in favor of colonizing the free people of colour and wishing to participate in this magnanimous effort to mitigate or remove the evil referd to in your memorial (the effects of which are very sensibly felt in our State, almost operating as a restraint on the concience of Some of our citizens) have Directed the Subscribing committee to address your respectable association, soliciting a corespondence with you — Your Proximity to the Seat of the General government renders this an object of peculiar desire, we presume the Advantages Derivable from such a corespondence are Sufficiently obvious and numerous to excuse us from noticing them minutely in this Brief address. on being duly apprased of your plan of operation we shall feel it a Duty, social, political and Religious to lend our willing aid to any measure that may promote the Grand and Supereminant object in View —

with High consideration we are yours

Respectfully

To	Moses Swaim	) corespond
Bushrod Washington	Thos. Swain	) ing
	Richd. Mendenhall	) comitee

[From Bushrod Washington]

Missrs: Moses Swaim, Thos. Swain & Rich^{d}. Mendenhall

Gentlemen

Mount Vernon July 28th 1817

I have received your favor of the 4th inst. and Forwarded it to the Board of Managers of the colonization Society, from whom you will I Doubt not, soon receive an Answer.

The aditional Proof which your Address afford of the Publick Aprobation Attachd. to this Society is a pleasing earnest of the Support which this Institution may expect from the Friends of Humanity in the U.S. and is at the same Time Auspicious of its ultimate success —

I am Gentlm
very Respectfully
yr, m°, ob, Servt,
Bush Washington

[From Tennessee Manumission Society]

A copy of a Letter received the 24 of the 11 mo. 1817 from the Manumission Society in Tennessee dated Mossy Creek, Novem. the 12th —

Respected Friends

We have fresh encouragement to persevere in the glorious cause of pleading in behalf of the greatly Degraded affricans and their Posterity — our Society has encreased in number, there are eleven or twelve Branch Meetings in this end of the State — We have presented our Petition to the Present Legislature which is now in Session with Several thousand Signers, a memorial from the Quarterly meeting of Friends, and another from our Convention have been presented our worthy Friend and fellow-laborer in the cause of Suffering humanity, Elihu Embre, has been two or three weeks at Knoxville Devoting his time and Tallents to the cause of Liberty — Upon the whole we have cause to believe that some good will be done and that some preparatory measures will be made for the gradual abolition of Slavery, as the only objection to emancipation is, there is no country Laid off in particular for the unfortunate Affrican Descendents to go to, as they become Free. Our convention ordered and prepared a Memorial to congress in which they have Petitioned that a Portion of Land in Affrica be Procur'd for the reception of the free Blacks. It is our hearty Desire

that you send in like manner, to the ensuing Session of congress Petitioning for the Same. We have petitioned our Legislature that they memorallize congress upon the same subject — perhaps it would be necessary for you to act in the Same manner.

Dear Brethren we sincerely desire that you may be preserv'd in the right way keeping your eye single to the glory of him who is able to crown your exertion with success, for we believe the Day is rappidly approaching when we shall have come to rejoice that we openly vindicated the Rights of our injured People. Let us therefore be encourag'd to persevere in so Laudable an undertaking and act promptly to the best of our understanding, having the glory of god in View, and the happyness of man will be the consequence —

We wish you to write every opportunity that you may think necessary Directing your communication to Barachia Macy who will gladly receive every line of yours upon this occasion —
Our Printing-office will be in opperation in a few months we hope and it would promote the cause of humanity to have a number of the Papers in that State — perhaps your printing could be done here upon better terms than elsewhere —
So having no more room for anything particular we remain your Friends —

To the North Carolina Manumission Society (Jno Underhill (Barachia Macy (William Brasalton (Corresponding (Committee

P.S. Please to Direct your communications to Mossy Creek Post office Jefferson County.

[To the Tennessee Manumission Society]

Jamestown Guilford N C

The 1st mo. 20th A.D. 1818

To the Manumission Society of Tennessee

Esteem[d]. Friends

Your Favor of the 11 mo. last came to hand a few Days after the meeting of our General Association; It would have been greatfull to my feelings to have had the opportunity of pre-

senting it as I think the Salutory Information and council would have been benificial at that Time --

We however had Forwarded a memorial to Congress, and our yearly Meeting of Friends presented one to our State Legislature, which met with a very cordial receiption, and a Resolution was adopted by that Body Desiring Congress to perservere in the great work of Colonization, a Subject which appears to claim the Popular Attention with encreasing velocity. It may nevertheless be well for us as a Society to be guarded in every respect and altho it is the most Desirable object of any other relative to the Suffering race that they should be placed in an Asylum to themselves and the thing which we ultimately intend, yet it may be not amiss for us to use some endeavors to have such of them as are uncultivated, gradually prepared so that they may govern themselves with propriety —

We bid you farewell, under a most affectionate and Fervant hope that the Society in general is moving Slow, firm and Intrepid in the great, the Benevolent and Patriotic cause of Drying the Tears on the Affrican cheek and Exonerating the American charactor from the contemptuous epithets of other nations —

To Barachia Macy	(Correspon	Richard Mendenhall
Jno Underhill	(ding	(Corresponding
Wm. Brasalton	(Comm't	(Secty.

P.S. your Society have no doubt received information from Thomas Shipley of Philadelphia, Secretary of the acting Committee of the American Convention for promoting the Abolition of Slavery that there are a Number of Books, and Minutes held in rediness for you waiting your Information on Direction for a Safe Passage —

R.M.

N.B. Our Deepriver Branch Directed me to subscribe for the Manumission Intiligencer — please have it done in my name and send it to this office as soon as the press is in operation.

R.M.

[To Thomas Shipley]

James Town Guilford County N. C.

The 1st mo. 20 A.D. 1818

Esteem'd. Friend Thomas Shipley

We are informed through a Communication addressed to Benajah Hiatt, of this County, of the procedings of the Late Abolition convention held at Philadelphia which we acknowledge as a Favor of Singular importance tho the Few lines accompanying the same appear'd to consider him a Member of Tenessee, and that it was not known there was a Society in this State it is therefore thought advisable to make known to you that there is about 240 of us now who have been organized some more than a year, and that we hope our number will increase —

Therefore Sensible of our Temporary Insufficiency Together with being Situate in a Country where the Subject we are engaged in is very unpopular, it is scarcely necessary to mention that every communication will be Thankfully Received by a well wisher to the cause

To (corespond
Thomas Shipley Rich'd Mendenhall (ing
of Philadelphia (Secretary

[From Elias B. Caldwell]

The letter from Messrs. Swaim and Mendenhall a commitee of the Manumission and colonization Society of North Carolina being read ordered that the coresponding Secretary of this Board assertain the precise objects and principals of said society and the nature of its Institution and be Authorized to co-operate with Said Society so far as the objects and Principals of its institution are found to be compatible with those of the Society Represented by this Board, Viz the colonizing the free People of colour of the U. States with their own consent —

Gentlemen

Your letter was laid before the Board of Managers of the American colonization Society by me some time since and the above Resolution pass[d]. thereon the Variety of my Avocations

has prevented my taking up the Bissness before, you will see from the Resolution the oppinion of the Board of Managers, the Part which the Board has to act in the promotion of the great and Important objects committed to them requires great Delicacy and Caution, your Residence in the Southern country will enable you to apriciate this in its full extent, persons of oposite oppinions on certain subjects are to be conciliated, and unless we can move with the assent of the Slave Holders nothing of Importance can be done by this Society. I send you the report of the proceeding of our first Annual Meeting we have receivd. several letters from our agents, extracts of which will shortly be publishd. Our agents ware received in England with the greatest attention and kindness, and have saild. for Affrica; we shall be glad of any aid you can afford us and especially of Diffusing Information and removing prejudices from the Publick mind.

I am with respect your obd. servt
Elias B. Caldwell
Cors. Sectay.

Washington City April 2nd, 1818.

[From Thomas Shipley]

Respected Friend
Richard Mendenhall

Thy Favor of 1st mo. 20 was Received by Mail informing of the Existence of an association of Humane persons in Guilford County North Carolina to assist the oppress affricans of which we were truly glad to Learn, Altho the emancipation of this unfortunate class of our Species has not progressed with the Rapidity its Friends have Desired yet there is cause of Rejoicing that our Fellow citizens to the South and west are becomeing more and more convinced of the Iniquity of Holding their fellow men in Slavery — The Pennsylvania Society for promoting the Abolition of Slavery ware the first to step forward in Defence of the rights of this unfortunate People, they ware Incorporated by the Legislature in 1789. Dr. Benjamin Franklin their first President — From that Period to the pres-

ent they have unremitingly endeavored to promote and Ameliorate their condition — not Satisfied with procuring the Abolition of Slavery in their own State, they Stimulated their Brethren in other States to associate themselves together for the same object, in consequence principally of the change in Publick Sentiment wrought by this means, Slavery has been abolished in most states of the Union, the advantage of these Associations being apparent, the Friends of the cause believe a Further benefit would arise from a Convention being held once in two or 3 years of Representatives from each Society, this measure has been found very Beneficial, Fifteen conventions have since been held in Philadelphia, the next will take place the first third day in the 8th mo 1820 to which I am instructed by the acting comitee to Invite you to send one or more Representatives, by the first Suitable conveyance I purpose sending you a Few coppies of Clarkson's History of the Abolition of the Slave Trade abridg[d]. by Evan Lewis publish[d]. by the Convention by Subscription for gratuitous Distribution in the Southern States, — The Education of colored children has been a primary object with several of the Societies, Flourishing Schools have been in opperation for their free instruction, in New York, Philadelphia and Wilmington Delaware. Desirous that we may encourage and strengthen each other in every good work — I am thy
Assured Friend

Thomas Shipley

N.B. If you approve of sending a Representative to the Convention it would be best to appoint them at your next Meeting as it is possible there may be a special convention held.

T.S.

Philadelphia
1st mo. 15th, 1819

Respected Friend
Rich[d] Mendenhall

The acting commitee of the American Convention for promoting the abolition of Slavery and Improving the "condition

of the Affrican Race" have instructed me to Forward to the Abolition or Manumission Society of North Carolina (of which thou art coresponding Secretary) Twenty five coppies of the proceedings of a Late Special Meeting of Said convention, also for distribution among People of Colour Residing in your State. Sixty copies of the Address of Convention to the said People with a Request that your Society would extend the necessary care in circulating them to the Best advantage.

The above Pamphlets are now ready and if any safe conveyance offers previous to your sending for them it is my intention to transmit them without Delay, it is suggested However whether it would not be best for some confidential person to be authorized to Receive them, many no doubt are often in this City from your Neighborhood who would cheerfully aid the Society by such an act of Kindness —

(Unsigned, but copy of letter from Thomas Shipley)

[From Richard Mendenhall]
James Town N.C.
January 20th A.D. 1819

Friend Elias B. Caldwell

After mentioning in My Last that we had not Rec^{d}. the 2nd Annual Report of the Colonization Society I rec^{d} from the Hon. Wm. H. Crawford 10 coppes which I Distributed, and could have advantedeously Dispers^{d}. some more, However all I wish to Signify, is as an Individual, My willingness again to aid the Exertions of s^{d}. Society in that or any other way that I may be usefull. I Returned a Few Days past from a Tour of about 200 Miles through the upper part of South Carolina. I found the People Friendly toward the Institution after Explaining the Principals and Motives on which it is actuated, and think it might have been beneficial if I could have Distributed, Some of the Reports as I hop^{d}. at proper places. I am of opinion that much good would result from a more general Distribution of s^{d}. Reports.

(Copy, unsigned)

[To Joseph M. Paul]

James Town Guilford County N. C.

June the 1 A.D. 1819

Respected Friend Joseph M. Paul

I Receiv[d] thy Letter and should have sent a Return sooner but waited to Receive the Minutes mentioned in it as Forwarded by Mail, but they have not arrived yet, and must have miscarried through some mistake of Postmasters, Thee mentioned something of some coppies of Clarksons Abolition of Slavery abridg[d] offered to us gratis for our help and encouragement which Favor would be Duly appreciated and thankfully accepted

I am with Sentiment of esteem thy F'd

Rich[d] Mendenhall
coresponding
Secty.

P.S. If no other oppertunity offers if the Books could be consigned to Henery Branson of Fayetteville we could readily get them.

It is uncertain wheather we shall send a Representative to the Convention or not we have an other Meeting on the Last Sixth Day of August next at which time it will probably be determined.

R.M.

[To Elias B. Caldwell]

James Town Guilford County N. C.

July 6th A.D. 1819

Friend Elias B. Caldwell

Having Some time Since Receiv[d] a line from thee together with the first Annual Report of the American Society, Both of which were thankfully accepted, and Laid before our General Association, who appointed a commitee to answer the Resolution mentioned in the letter Respecting the Views of this Society, but as the Commitee Did not Live convenient to each other it was neglected, therefore it being thought best not to postpone answering too Long — permit me to reply that our intention and object is in the most gentle and pacifick manner gradually to

promote the abolition of Slavery and to endeavor to gain Information on the subject — under a hope that Some way will open for the relief and Instruction of these unhappy beings Still having in View the happiness and wellfare of all, we are well aware of the Importance as well as the Delicacy of the Subject and that it must be a work of Time is the only thing expected or Desired. Under these and Similar Sentiments we have associated together for the purpose of collecting and diffusing information on the Subject.

I am with Sentiments of esteem thy
Friend

Rich^{d}. Mendenhall

P.S. We have not had your second Annual Report, tho the newspapers have given us prety full accounts of the success of your agent in the South. Our next general association will be in the last week in August next.

R. M.

[To Joseph M. Paul]
Jamestown N. C. 11th 22 A.D. 1821

Friend Joseph M. Paul

Shortly after my last Letter the Meeting of our general Association took place at which it was considered Impractable to send on Delegates to the American Convention at Philadelphia at that Time and it was Directed for me to write on to that purport but not being at home at the time of the Meeting it was some time before I was informed of its Direction and the time of the Meeting of the Convention being passed I thought it unnecessary. However at a late meeting of ours it Still seems to be the wish of the Meeting that it should be made known that it was under consideration and that altho it was not convenient at that time to send Delegates yet that we felt a wish to continue to hear from you under a hope that our feeble Efforts might be strengthend by keeping up a corespondence

To Joseph M. Paul Philadelphia

Rich^{d} Mendenhall

P.S. The Reception of the Pamphlets mentioned in thy last is thankfully Acknowledged.

R.M.

[Note on matter of a delegate to Convention of the American Colonization Society]

The Gen. Association of the Manumission Society of N. Ca. at its late Session had under consideration the subject of sending a Delegate to the American Convention. Great anxiety was manifested that we should be personally represented in the Convention at its approaching session, and its importance was admitted by every one. By attending minutely to the councils of that body which has made a successful experiment we would become more intimately acquainted, with the means most likely to promote our own success. But tho convinced of the propriety and importance of the measure we were intercepted in its prosecution by the scantiness of our resources. It is to be observed that the Manumission Society of N. C. was instituted rather with the view of exciting popular attention than of raising funds. It has therefore never been a funded institution. There are many projects of high consideration that progress tardily from this cause. It was therefore thought inadvisable for the present to call on the branches for money to fit out the Delegation the more especially as many of our citizens owing to the depressed state of the times experience a difficulty in meeting their private contracts. From the zeal manifested on the subject in the Association we indulge the hope that when the branches become generally apprised of its importance we shall be enabled to send a Delegation without retarding our other measures. To maintain that amicable intercourse already commenced & to furnish to the Convention all the useful information in our power the Association has recourse to a written communication.

The Gen. Association of Man. S of N. C. though very desirous to be represented in the American Convention being fully sensible of the beneficial effects that would result from a personal interchange of sentiments with the Delegates of the several Societies which are represented in your body and which from their long standing and unremitting perserverance in the cause of human needs must have acquired much useful information and experience; yet the professed object of our Society

being that of endeaving to conciliate publick opinion, it was after much deliberation deemed most expedient for the present to empty our small funds in collecting publishing and distributing tracts tending to show the unpolicy the injustice and the irreligion of slavery together with the mild measures by which it is proper it should be gradually abolished Influenced by the weight of these considerations the Association consented to nominate the undersigned a committee to draw up and forward a communication to the Convention and thus to maintain that friendly intercourse which the similarity of our views so highly recommend.

From "the Manumission Society of North Carolina" to "the American Convention for the Abolition of Slavery &c."

The Manumission Society North Carolina have to offer an apology for not sending a Delegate to the Convention. It is not that our views and objects are especially different nor is it that we consider it unimportant. We are aware that it would be highly momentous to us to be represented in the Convention and nothing less than the persuasion that our scanty funds can be more economically and advantageously employed in the publication and distribution of tracts showing the relative value of slave and free labour. the unpolicy of slavery &c could have induced us to omit sending a Delegate or Delegates. Owing to the depressed state of commerce the difficulty of raising funds in this section of the community is very great and so distant is our location from Philadelphia as to render the sending of a Delegate a matter of deliberation. We therefore have recourse to communication by letter in which we intentionally avoid all abstract reasoning and are as brief as may consist with giving all the important information in our power.

Our Society may be said to be in a flouishing condition and though we have not had a great accession of members within the past year yet the zeal of those already enlisted appears undiminished and their information on the subject appears to be rapidly progressing. We refer you to "the Greensborough Patriot" dated the 22nd of Sept. for the communication of the President to a late Meeting of the General Association and of

the same paper of the 29th for an extract of the Minutes of the same. These papers will be forwarded and permit us to refer you to these documents for a view of our operation.

The spirit of manumission we are glad to observe seems to be advancing. Many from motives of interest, patriotism & religion were they not measurably prohibited by law evince a willingness to emancipate their slaves and the number of such is we believe constantly increasing. The laws of the State afford no facilities for emancipation and this circumstance furnishes a specious pretext for cleaving to the error.

A very prevalent doctrine amongst southern slaveholders is that emancipation without Colonization would but enhance the evil that by liberating the slaves amongst us without colonizing them they would but entail a greater evil on the community without bettering the condition of the negroes themselves. And the friends of emancipation though they do not fully subscribe to this doctrim are aware of the propriety of colonizing. Consequently the spirit of emigration and expatriation prevails. Some of the free people of colour are removing to the western free states some are removed to Hayti and others to Liberia. The Colony of Liberia on the coast of Africa is the one towards which the friends of humanity in North Carolina look with the most hopeful anticipations and they entertain a confident belief that it is the anxious desire of a majority of the citizens of state not excepting slaveholders that the (left unfinished in Ms.).

With regard to preparing the slaves for freedom and even to educating the children of colour already free the most formidable obstacles exist. These are found in the prejudices and long established usage of the people and it will require a powerful exertion to effect anything on the subject without legislative aid.

The friends of gradual emancipation though they have many warm supporters in the State legislature want much as yet of having acquired an ascendency in that body. The subject was however agitated in the last session of the General assembly and doubtless will be in the next and probably will continue successfully to be till the great object of our wishes is acquired.

Permit us to conclude by Requesting you to forward any Information that shall be deemed interesting as our interior situation will at all times render it not only amusing but valuable to the cause for we are more and more convinced that the want Information and its concomitant & want of that high sense of honor furnishes the Broad Basis on which the Brooding Honors of Slavery find repose and whilest deep rooted Eval is one we truly deplore and the removal of which we are anxious to accelerate we are wel aware of Impropriety censorous Invectives.

(Copy, unsigned, undated).

[Memorial]

To the Honourable the General Assembly
of the State of North Carolina
Gentlemen

The Manumission and Colonization Society of North Carolina being met in General Association and being Deeply and Solommly Impress[d]. under a sense of the Degraded Situation of a number of the People of Colour in this our highly favor[d]. and enlightned Land, have Humbly hope[d]. that it would not be taken amiss to petition your Honorable Body in their behalf, more especially as we consider the future wellfare of our Country in a great measure to Depend on a Wise and Virtuous Policy of the time present — and being sensible that Very Little could be Done During the Turbulent comotions that have not only fomented the European World, but tinged the precious and Peacefull Shores of America with blood and Slaughter — With these considerations Humbly believing that an all wise and overruling providence under the Auspices of whom we hope to be actuated and whose Frowns we wish to Advert by endeavouring to perform our part in the time which heaven seems to point out for its performance when the Whispering Breeses of Peace seem to Alure and awaken us to a sense of the unspeakable bl (missing in m/s.)
feel our Spirits arous[d]. and Renewedly Quickned under a Sense of Divine Beneficience Anxious to Make a Beginning in the

proper Day and time of a great and Magnanimous work which it may take ages to perform and which we believe to be of the utmost importance to our country and Posterity at some future Day — and whereas a great part of Euope and America seem to be United in sentiment and measurably operating in concert to better the condition and enlighten the understanding and Animate the Dark and untutored Affrican, Societies have been formed, Missionaries Sent, Agents have explor[d]. and large Sums of Money Rais[d] by Voluntary Subscriptions all of which can avail but little without the Interposition of Legislative Assistance, that under these considerations we are induc[d]. Humbly to remonstrate and boldly to besiech you under a hope that some measure may be adopted whereby your Virtuous citizens may be enabled to Liberate such persons of colour as may be considered Suitable to be colonized provided the same shall be put in operation with such Rules Regulations and Restrictions as your Wisdom may disctate for the Benifit of the emancipated welfare and safety of the State is the Harty prayer of your Submissive petitioners.

(Copy, unsigned, undated).

[Memorial]

To the Honourable, the General
Assembly of the State of North-Carolina.

The Memorial of the Manumission Society of North-Carolina respectfully sheweth:

That your Memorialists, the Members of said Society, view with much concern the state of Slavery among us, with its numerous evils; among which we take the liberty to particularize the following:

1. The owner of slaves has no means of divesting himself of that property, (if property it may be called,) however strongly his convictions may incline him to do so. We think it is enough that the citizens of a republican State are permitted to hold their fellow men and women in bondage, without being compelled by law. Although a general emancipation, without the consent of the masters, may not be advisable; yet, it cannot

be doubted that our citizens have discretion enough to restrain their liberality, and keep it within proper bounds. Men, even in their dying moments, are not permitted to exercise that liberty of conscience, which we had thought no human Legislature could take away.

2. We further represent, that, among the Slaves of this State, nothing like the legal tie of marriage is known. Fornication, Adultery, Incest, and every species of licentiousness, are practised with impunity. No chastity of intention, nor constancy of affection, can shield the connubial state from the rudest attacks of violence. And,

3. That the chastity of the female Slave lies constantly exposed to the rudest insults of the other sex, both bond & free, not only of their own colour, but (we blush to say it) of white men also.

We, therefore, your Memorialists, respectfully entreat your Honourable Body to take into due consideration the several Grievances above stated, and if the same shall appear to require the interposition of Legislative acts, that you will by such enactments as may appear just and salutary, effectually provide a remedy for any or all the said Grievances; viz: That you will repeal the Laws now in force which forbid individual emancipation, & provide such regulations to be observed by those who manumit Slaves in future, as your Body, in its wisdom, may think proper; particularly we would suggest that aged or infirm Slaves or such as are incapable of earning a livelihood, shall, in no case, become a publick or parish charge. 2. That you, in your wisdom, will enact such laws as shall legalize matrimony among Slaves, and shall restrain by proper penalties their licentious intercourse. And, lastly, that you will make legal provisions for the protection of female Slaves in their rights of chastity against brutal acts of violence, & the artful allurements of seduction.

(Copy, unsigned, undated.)

[Address by Henry Powell. Sept. 1833]
To the General Association
Held at Deep River Meeting
House in Guilford County
North Carolina

Address, To the General Association of the Manumission Societies of North Carolina, Fellow Members: Having in consideration the weight of the cause on which we are engaged, I feel much diffidence in attempting to advance anything that will be calculated to throw much light on the Subject, but the principles on which [this] institution first took its rise, emanated from the dearest rights of man, namely life, liberty, & the pursuit of happiness these are his inherent rights, rights & priviliges allotted him by his Creator. Why then shoud man become so depraved, so far alienated from the dictates of humanity & justice, as to deal in Human flesh, or in other words but to the same purpose sell his fellow man, the enormous evil, this vicious practice has been tolerated & caried on to an alarming extent in our Otherwise I may say happy Nation, But there has been so much said & published, so much reason & eloquence persuasion & argument displayed facts so broadly stated, in proof of the impolicy, as well as the iniquity of Slavery, that it seems but poorly worth while for me to even make an attempt towards rendering my feeble efforts in vindicating the principles on which we have set out. I have been a member of this society from the first commencement of it. I though I have not felt myself qualified to render it much aid, either by publick speaking, or by communication otherwise, in part from my incapacity, & greatly from a want of education, yet I have reasons to be thankfull that I have not lost sight & have firmly held to the principles on which I was first actuated, believing it to be a duty that I owed to God, & man, I never expect to depart from these principles. I have always been faithful in attending these meetings. Whenever it was my duty to attend, Permit me now to mention a Trait that is too glaring in the features of our Republick, that is to explain it in words or

language that may be intelligible to all. (Popularity) I have ever remarked, through my small sphere of observation, that when anything becomes unpopular, the spirit or the principles which seemed to keep it in action sank into Oblivion, and died away, either Religion, Politics, or what not, would share the same fate. This is the case I presume in a great degree with the Manumission Societies—but fully persuaded I am that if each individual woud only use the exertion that is in his power to do, he woud have some influence, by which means the principles woud prevail, until the thing woud become universal throughout our land — But what must I say or what is to take place, that will arouse the People from this lethargic, this dead and torpid State, that they are too much in, with regard to the ties of nature, the dearest rights of man? What revolution must take place either in Religion, politics, or Government? or must some legislative, Judicial, or military authority, take place, that will put a stop to the practice, or must we remain blind and stupid, until that divine retribution takes place, When the principles and the Dictates of the Gospel of Jesus Christ shall rule over the whole Earth, and the kingdoms of Satan be put down, if we wait for these things, these external agents to take place before we can be properly Stimulated to a Sense of our duty. I fear we shall wait in vain — and look for what we shall never live to see — Procrastination is said to be the thief of time, Why then do we put off a Work for Succeeding generations to do? that coud so effectually be done by us now? or so much encouraged that it would increase in a ratio, that woud fully compensate the labours of the greatest Philanthropist & benefactor of mankind; Although our state has treated the Subject of emancipation in her legislative Capacity, with indifference, or rather with contempt, yet it behoves us as a Social body, both individually, and collectively, to use our best exertions in disseminating the principles of this institution, and although it has met with some check from incidents that have occured lately with regard to the Slaves rising &c which caused our legislature to enact laws that were more tight and binding on them this by no means goes to prove that it is not a good work,

a work that shoud be discouraged or discontinued, on the other hand it goes plainly to show in my view, the inconsistency, impropriety, & iniquity of Slavery. That the reason why those depredations have been attempted and committed by the Blacks, has been owing to the deprivation of the rights & privileges that were by their Creator allowed them, for it has been very demonstrable that the more debased and degraded they were the more vicious they become, that rigidity, Severity, & Tyranny instead of inculcating habits of morality and civilization in them, rather goes to have a contrary effect, these are founded on principles that we cannot well go by, — I coud cite too instances were it necessary to refer to them, that woud show that where there has been large numbers Suddenly emancipated that it neither occasioned insurrection, bloodshed, or carnage, that there has not been an instance of the kind, where that has taken place, that where this has happened it has been in those Sections that were most tarnished with the crime where Slavery prevailed to the greatest extent, where the Authority of the Master was practised with the greatest Severity Over his slave, this is at once a Strong vindication of a Humane treatment being the most proper & consistent. — Perhaps it may be nothing out of place to call your attention at this time, to an instance that lately Occured. I think in Rockingham County, a man by the name of James Sharp, if my information is right, that had largely speculated in Negroes bought & sold to a great extent; I have understood that he said on his death bead, that he shoud die, and go to the hottest place prepared for the wicked, he had Justly merited it from the Sin he had committed by carrying on the traffic, and there was no other alternative, for him, and advised his Partners in the business to ever afterwards desist from it. this is at once Sufficient to deter all those who have embarked in this trade of Human Souls to cleanse their garments from this Stain, this Sin, this crime of Oppression, — And those who have a desire to fall in with that kind of speculation, to immediately turn from it. And though our body is somewhat small at this time & has become somewhat unpopular, yet I trust there are some left, who are strong in the faith &

energetic in their views, some who will not get tired, & weary in well doing but will use their best exertions to bring about that happy change, either in our time, or for our Posterity. When Slavery shall be done away, equality & Justice take place and the divine injunction of doing unto others as we would wish them do unto us universally prevail, then let us be stimulated to use every means in our power by Sending our memorials to our Legislative bodies, to enact laws that will have a tendency to eradicate the evil, for it is the laws of the State that tolerate it, as to the Constitution I will venter to assert without fear of contradiction that it is unconstitutional that thing which we hold so dear & Sacred, that we are afraid to alter it even in some respects, that woud appear more congenial to Republicanism. I earnestly then urge it on those who have engaged in this work of emancipation, in this great & good cause, to use a double dilligence, & use greater exertions than ever,—It is plain to be seen that all those States that are called free states,—are far a head of the Slave States, in wealth, prosperity & Happiness. I am an illiterate man and as I before observed, did not consider myself capable of presenting anything before this body, that woud be much worthy of attention, but my zeal has been strong if my abilities have been weak, & I think if every one woud use the exertion & the influence over the community as the Justice of the cause woud prompt him to do, that many beneficial consequences woud result therefrom. It woud in a great measure stop the spirit of emigration from our State to Other States, to States that do not tolerate the System. The reason of this is very obvious; & I believe if the System of Slavery was banishd from our State, set aside all the inconveniences of navigation &c that are said to belong to it, that it woud not be long till it would vie with the wealthiest states in the Union. Thus have I communicated some of my views to this House, ever ready & willing to discharge any duty that may devolve on me, agreeable to the best of my abilities and shoud I never live to see the time arive, when that great change may take place, I hope if my life shoud be spared

a few years longer, to see the work still coming nigher to a happy crisis, then with a due defference to the President who has so ably & faithfully discharged his duty, and to the members of this association, I now submit this communication.

Henry Powell